

China rejects Iran arms embargo

NEW YORK (R) — China has told the United States it will not back a United Nations arms embargo against Iran, the New York Times reported Saturday. It quoted a State Department official as saying: "China has told us that because of recent developments in the war, it would complicate matters to pass an arms embargo resolution and that this was not the way to bring the war to an end." The Reagan administration appealed to the 15 members of the U.N. Security Council shortly after U.S. forces struck two Iranian oil tankers Monday and sank or disabled six Iranian naval vessels. Chinese Foreign Ministry officials gave the response to the U.S. ambassador to China, Winston Lord, the newspaper said. According to the New York Times, the Chinese had earlier said they would go along if the other Security Council members supported an arms embargo resolution, but China apparently became concerned that it would be seen as siding with the United States against Iran. "The Chinese response was the clearest indication that the American naval attack had undermined the nine-month American diplomatic effort at the United Nations," the newspaper said.

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Cluverius holds talks in Cairo

CAIRO (R) — A senior U.S. State Department official held talks in Egypt Saturday to try to advance the Middle East peace process. Wat Cluverius told reporters after meeting Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid that both Washington and Cairo remained committed to the U.S. peace plan. Cluverius, deputy to Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy, said he also planned to visit Israel and Jordan. He did not comment on speculation that Secretary of State George Shultz, who promoted the U.S. proposals during a Middle East tour two weeks ago, would return to the region next month.

U.S. reduces UNRWA share

VIENNA (Agencies) — The United States has pledged \$61.3 million in cash to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) 1988 budget of \$216 million. In each year since 1982, the United States has contributed \$67 million to the agency's health, education and welfare programs for Palestine refugees in the Middle East.

Velayati in Syria

DAMASCUS (R) — Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati arrived in Damascus Saturday for a previously announced official visit, the Syrian Arab News Agency (SANA) said. It said Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharaa met the Iranian minister on arrival but gave no further details. The Iranian news agency IRNA, reporting Velayati's departure from Tehran, said he would meet Syrian officials to discuss bilateral relations, regional and international issues, and developments in the Gulf.

Iran envoy probes Amal-Hizbollah feud

NICOSIA (R) — A senior Iranian cleric has arrived in Lebanon to investigate recent clashes between two Shi'ite militias, Tehran's news agency IRNA said. The IRNA report said Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati had set up a five-man committee to carry out a probe into battle between Syrian-backed Amal and Iranian-backed Hizbollah (Party of God) fighters for control of South Lebanon. The militias agreed a ceasefire April 7 after three days of street battles, which Lebanese security sources said left 15 dead and more than 50 wounded.

Abu Jihad guard buried in Lebanon

SIDON (R) — Thousands of Palestinians chanted anti-Israeli slogans Saturday at the funeral for a bodyguard of assassinated Palestinian leader Khalil Al Wazir (Abu Jihad). Witnesses said at least 3,000 people from Sidon's refugee camps marched behind the coffin of Mustapha Mohammad Abdel Al, one of two guards killed with Abu Jihad at his home in Tunis April 16. The coffin, wrapped in a Palestinian flag, was carried to a cemetery at Ain Al Hilweh camp, where black flags flew in mourning and verses of the Koran were read over loudspeakers.

Ethiopian rebels attack major port

ADDIS ABABA (AP) — Eritrean rebels shelled Ethiopia's biggest port and its only oil refinery, diplomats and the official news agency said. Five people were reported killed and 15 wounded. In an unprecedented report on the civil war in the north, the Ethiopian news agency reported Friday that the rebels launched an attack on the port of Assab at midnight Tuesday from a boat at nearby Senabar Island. "Bandits who are bent on creating havoc to lives and property fired shells at the town," the news agency reported. "A team from the Ethiopian navy immediately took action and blew up the boat in which the rebels had infiltrated the area. The boat was reported to have capsized with the rebels in it," said the agency.

Israelis kill Arab in Qabatiya, tighten blanket curfews

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli soldiers shot and killed a Palestinian while the army kept large areas of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip under curfew on the second "day of anger" called for by underground leaders of the Palestinian uprising.

The curfew, confining at least 400,000 Palestinians to their homes was maintained for a sixth straight day following violent protests Friday over the assassination of Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) deputy military commander Khalil Al Wazir (Abu Jihad).

Blast kills 54 in Tripoli

TRIPOLI (Agencies) — A pickup truck rigged with explosives ripped through a crowded vegetable market in Tripoli Saturday, killing 54 people and wounding 125 in the bloodiest such bombing in Lebanon in nearly three years. Tripoli's eight hospitals and clinics were filled to capacity with victims of the 8:45 a.m. (0645 GMT) blast that rocked the low-income Tabaneh district of Lebanon's second-largest city. Police said the vegetable-loaded black Mercedes pickup was rigged with an estimated 150 kilograms of TNT. It went off as the area filled with mid-morning shoppers on the seventh day of the holy month of Ramadan.

Diplomats believe hijackers have not left Algeria

KUWAIT (AP) — Arab diplomats and officials said Saturday they believe the gunmen who hijacked a Kuwaiti airliner were still in Algeria, where the drama ended three days ago, despite speculation they had gone to Lebanon. One diplomat, who spoke on condition of anonymity, told the AP the nine sky pirates are "probably still in Algeria." He said that the "current belief" in Kuwait as officials studied the ramifications of the hijacking by the pro-Iranian gunmen. The diplomats were commenting on reports that the hijackers had been spirited to Lebanon through either Iran or Syria after they were allowed to leave the commandeered Kuwait Airways Jumbo jet by Algerian authorities early Wednesday.

Mujahedeen claim capture of Afghan post

PESHAWAR (Agencies) — The Afghan Mujahedeen claimed Saturday to have captured a strategic Soviet-Afghan garrison that will boost their supply flow over the Pakistan-Afghanistan border. There was no immediate confirmation of the report. But if accurate, it would be a major victory for the Mujahedeen and would open a new direct supply route from Pakistan to U.S., Saudi and Chinese weapons. The Peshawar headquarters of the seven-party Mujahedeen alliance said Barikot, in Afghanistan's northeast Kunar province, fell Friday after a four-month siege. Spokesman said the base and village were heavily fortified and served as the headquarters of Afghanistan's 55th army brigade. Mujahedeen, led by commander Rahmatullah of the Hezb-i-Islami Khalis faction, reported that helicopters airlifted about five infantry and commando battalions before the insurgents overran the compound around 1 p.m. Soviet and Afghan aircraft indiscriminately bombed and shelled the Barikot area during the first stage of the attack, destroying dozens of houses, Mujahedeen said. They said government soldiers blew up a major ammunition dump before being airlifted.

opened fire and mortally wounded a Palestinian man who attacked him with an axe during Saturday's protest in the West Bank village of Qabatiya, the army said without identifying the attacker. The death on Saturday brought to 172 the number of Arabs killed since the uprising began 19 weeks ago. Reports said the clash in Qabatiya occurred during a protest in memory of Abu Jihad, assassinated in his Tunis home last Saturday by gunmen widely thought to have been Israeli. Eight "days of anger" starting Sunday.

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about who the bombers are or their motive. Earlier car bombings in Lebanon had been blamed on civil war animosities as well as other feuds.

Saturday's explosion was the first major car bombing in Lebanon this year. Acting Prime Minister Salim Hoss condemned it as "barbaric atrocity." Dazed and frightened survivors watched bulldozers removing trapped victims and clearing rubble. Only pieces of twisted metal remained from the booby-trapped car.

"My two brothers were killed, my two brothers were killed," wailed a woman in front of a burnt-out shop. People also lined the entrance of a nearby hospital trying to identify relatives as mutilated bodies were brought in. "All throughout our life in Tripoli, we didn't hear an explosion that loud. It was like an earthquake. Tripoli will never forget this black day," said one witness, Marwan Al Haj Ali. Syrian troops who control Tripoli set up checkpoints around the area and searched cars.

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Crown Prince, Princess Sarvath arrive in India

BOMBAY (Petra) — Their Royal Highnesses Crown Prince Hassan and Princess Sarvath and the delegation accompanying him arrived here Saturday on a several-day visit to India during which the Crown Prince will meet with Indian President Ramaswamy Venkatarman and Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi for talks on issues of common interest and ways of boosting bilateral relations. Prince Hassan will also visit a number of Indian industrial installations.

Iraq rejects Iranian claim, upholds truce

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq Saturday denied a Tehran claim that it had bombed Iranian border towns the previous day and said that a ceasefire in the "war of the cities" was still valid. Baghdad unilaterally declared a truce from Wednesday in the "war of the cities" which has killed hundreds of civilians since it erupted again in February. During the cities war, Iraq fired some 190 missiles, most of them at Tehran.

The Iraqi forces have not been bombed by Iranian residential areas with artillery or any other weapon since the ceasefire came into effect after midnight Wednesday. Iraq's military spokesman told Reuters Saturday.

French bid to free hostages torpedoed

BEIRUT (Agencies) — French negotiators seeking to free three French hostages held by pro-Iranian extremists since 1985 flew out empty-handed Saturday after last-minute hitches torpedoed their mission on the eve of France's presidential elections. Syrian and Lebanese officials at Beirut airport said the deal to free the captives fell through, because the kidnappers made last-minute demands which the French negotiators could not meet. A chartered Swiss executive jet carrying four French negotiators left Beirut at 10:48 a.m. (0848 GMT) to an unknown destination, according to Beirut airport officials who spoke on condition of anonymity. "None of the hostages was with them," an airport official said. The team of envoys, headed by Jean-Charles Marchiani, an emissary of Interior Minister Charles Pasqua, and including Lebanese Alexandre Safa and Bourise Hankash, was escorted by Syrian officers and troops to the plane. Radio monitors in Cyprus heard the pilot tell the control tower at Larnaca that he was heading for Paris. The arrival of the 12-seat Falcon 50 in Beirut from Larnaca two hours earlier fuelled speculation the release of the three Frenchmen was imminent and that the jet had come to pick them up. After a similar shuttle Friday, the plane's pilot, who would not be named, said.

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De Mita clears last hurdle but faces rift over Mideast

ROME (R) — New Prime Minister Ciriaco de Mita cleared his last formal hurdle when he won a vote of confidence in the Italian senate Saturday but immediately confronted a rift in his government on Middle East policy. The upper house voted 177 to 106 in favour of de Mita's government, Italy's 48th since World War II. The senate confirmation followed approval by the chamber of deputies Thursday. De Mita, leader of the dominant Christian Democrats, formed the coalition 10 days ago. He also condemned the murder in Tunis a week ago of PLO deputy military commander Khalil Al Wazir as a "useless crime" that had made peace in the Middle East more difficult. He stopped short, however, of blaming Israel.

He devoted part of his senate speech Saturday to the Middle East after a call by Socialist leader Bettino Craxi for recognition of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) sparked a fierce row with the Republicans. De Mita said Israel could only ensure its security if it recognised the PLO but, in an apparent attempt to calm tempers in his own coalition, said Italy's stand had to be agreed with other European Community (EC) countries. He also condemned the murder in Tunis a week ago of PLO deputy military commander Khalil Al Wazir as a "useless crime" that had made peace in the Middle East more difficult. He stopped short, however, of blaming Israel.

Craxi's call

Craxi said the Middle East debate a step further Saturday by proposing Italy should press the EC to seek a mandate to administer the Israeli-occupied territories.

The socialist leader, twice prime minister himself, told a news conference in Naples that EC countries could administer the territories for a transitional period to reduce tension and help lay the ground for a permanent peace settlement.

Policy towards Israel and the Middle East has been a frequent source of friction in Italian coalition cabinets. Craxi said Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza were oppressed and had the right and duty to rebel against Israeli occupation. He said Israel had the right to demand secure borders "but nothing else."

The Socialist leader also said the Italian government should lodge a protest with Israel if it confirmed that Italian airspace was violated by the Israeli Boeing 707 that reportedly directed the commando team that assassinated Abu Jihad in Tunisia last weekend.

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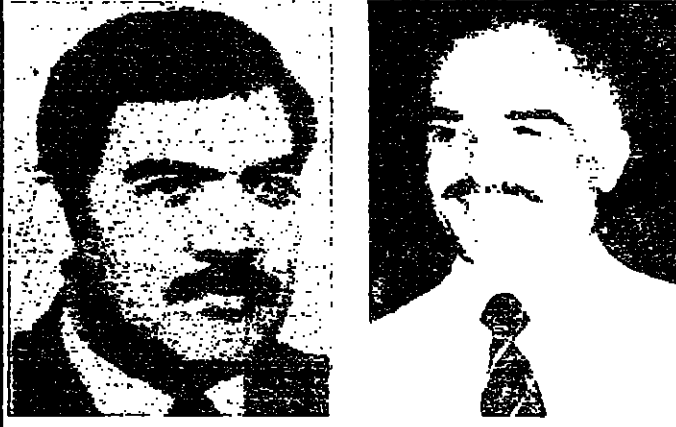
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Iran says it may boycott pilgrimage

NICOSIA (R) — An Iranian leader said Saturday Tehran might boycott this year's pilgrimage to the Holy City of Mecca if Saudi Arabia insisted on placing curbs on its nationals. The Iranian news agency IRNA, received in Cyprus, quoted Medhi Emam Jamarani, the official responsible for Iran's pilgrims, as saying a final decision lay with spiritual leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini. Saudi Arabia has said the number of Iranians making the pilgrimage must be limited to 45,000, compared with the usual 150,000, and that they will not be allowed to stage political demonstrations. More than 400 people, mostly Iranians, were killed in clashes between Iranian protesters and security forces in Mecca during last year's pilgrimage. IRNA quoted Jamarani as saying that, unless Khomeini gave permission, no Iranian would perform this year's pilgrimage if Saudi Arabia prevented 150,000 from attending and staging rallies. Jamarani, Khomeini's personal Haj representative, was speaking at a news conference in Tehran after visiting Saudi Arabia to make preliminary arrangements for this year's pilgrimage, which starts in mid-July. Saudi Arabia points out that the Haj ceremonies are strictly religious.



Najibullah thanks King

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Saturday received a cable of thanks from Afghan President Najibullah in reply to a cable of congratulations the King sent him on the occasion of the signing of the Geneva accords on the Afghan problem April 14. Najibullah voiced deep thanks and appreciation for the efforts which His Majesty exerted to achieve a peaceful solution to the Afghan problem and national reconciliation. Najibullah also praised the policy followed by Jordan under the King's leadership to serve Islamic causes and achieve durable and just peace in the region.

U.S. to widen protection to neutral ships in Gulf

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The Reagan administration, expanding its military role in the Gulf, may authorise U.S. navy forces to offer protection to neutral ships not flying the American flag, U.S. officials said Saturday. "There has been no final decision yet," said one official, but Defence Secretary Frank Carlucci and Armed Forces Chief Admiral William Crowe briefed congressional leaders on the plan Friday, four days after a major U.S.-Iranian battle in the Gulf. Another official said the plan probably would be approved. "That's the way things are going. I think they will go that way," he said. In the Gulf, Iran's gunboats stayed out of sight Saturday as U.S. and allied navies searched shipping lanes for mines. "The gun-boats are staying in port while American warships patrol the sea-lanes and question merchant ships," one source told Reuters. Published reports said the plan was intended to apply to cases of merchant ships attacked by Iranian forces. Current U.S. policy in the Gulf is to protect only U.S.-flag ships, including 11 Kuwaiti tankers.

Shultz: No crisis in U.S.-Soviet relations

TBILISI (Agencies) — U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz Saturday discounted suggestions of a crisis in superpower relations sparked by attacks on the Soviet system by U.S. President Ronald Reagan. Shultz was asked by reporters flying with him to Tbilisi from Moscow whether a toughly worded riposte to Reagan by Kremlin chief Mikhail Gorbachev Friday meant there was a crisis at hand. "That would be a total misreading," he replied. Shultz added: "We all know this is a difficult relationship to manage." Gorbachev delivered his oral counter-blast during a meeting with Shultz to discuss preparations for the U.S. president's visit to Moscow at the end of May. According to a report issued by the official news agency TASS, the Soviet leader told Shultz he was tired of hearing sermons from Reagan and indicated he believed the president was souring the atmosphere for the summit. Shultz said he believed the Soviet Union was over-reacting to a speech this week in which Reagan accused Moscow of plotting continued trouble-making in Afghanistan and Pakistan in spite of the recent peace accords. Moscow officials have made it clear they were incensed by comments by the president April 10 in Las Vegas when he called on Gorbachev to "tear down a wall of oppression" in the Soviet Union.

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Syria shows new 'flexible approach' to relations with PLO

From Lamis K. Andoni in Damascus

AS TALKS between Syrian officials and a high-powered delegation from the Palestinian mainstream Fatah movement continued here Saturday, Palestinian sources said that Damascus was demonstrating a "new flexible approach" towards reconciliation between Syrian President Hafez Al Assad and Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat.

According to the same sources the "new Syrian attitude" does not reflect a complete shift in Damascus's basic positions on policies pursued by Arafat, but that Syria is now ready to discuss these "differences" without preconditions.

The Syrians presented their reservations within the context of issues to be included in the agenda of the continuing Palestinian-Syrian discussions and not as preconditions, a Palestinian official, who asked not to be named, told the Jordan Times.

He noted that while Damascus did not hide its displeasure at the continuing contacts between the PLO and Egypt and Palestinian meetings with leftist Israeli groups, Syrian officials did not stipulate that Arafat stop these moves as a precondition for reconciliation between Fatah and the Baathist government in Syria.

Furthermore, for the first time since 1982, the Syrians are not speaking negatively about the PLO's presence in Lebanon.

"In fact, the Syrian officials spoke positively about the Palestinian presence in Lebanon," the official said. "It seems that Damascus does not believe any more that the PLO presence in Lebanon constitutes a point of contention."

But perhaps the most substantive change in the Syrian approach, according to well-informed Palestinian sources, is that Syria is not reiterating its objections to the PLO's relations with other Arab governments.

"Damascus has dropped its insistence that it should have a say over the PLO's relations with other Arab governments," an authoritative source said.

According to this source, during this week's Syrian-Palestinian meetings, Damascus did not demand that PLO stopped its contacts with Egypt.

"According to the Syrians the main concern should be that any contact between the PLO and Cairo should not serve the Camp David policy," the source explained.

Although the Syrian position seems a little vague on this point, senior Palestinian officials interpreted it to mean that Syria would oppose Palestinian-Egyptian coordination but would accept some contacts to continue as long as the PLO "practically adheres to its rejections of the principles of the American-brokered Camp David peace accord between Israel and Egypt and other U.S.-sponsored peace plans," according to other sources.

In theory, the Syrian position falls in line with the stands of left-wing Palestinian factions as well as a number of Fatah Central Committee members.

Future strategies than past differences

But despite the importance of the points of differences between the two sides, indications are that both parties are more concerned with discussing their future strategies than past differences.

During the first round of talks Thursday between the Fatah

delegation, led by PLO Foreign Department head Farouk Qaddoumi and Syrian Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam, the main focus was on means to develop a joint Syrian-Palestinian stand to foil American moves in the region.

According to a senior PLO official, both sides agreed that the two main urgent objectives should be to sustain the Palestinian uprising and to thwart moves initiated by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz.

The PLO official explained that the two sides were not concerned by the contents of the Shultz peace proposals. But, more significantly, they were alerted by American moves to "block a just settlement which takes into consideration the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people as well as Syria's concerns and role."

The official said one way of translating these concerns into action would be to formulate a joint Syrian-Palestinian stand during the next Arab summit, scheduled to be convened next month.

But despite the prevailing optimism here, PLO officials admit that Syrian-PLO differences, which had accumulated over the past five years, would need time to be ironed out.

Strong positive signals

The officials, however, noted that there have been very strong positive signals over the last week.

Foremost among these signals was of course Syria's approval to bury assassinated PLO deputy military commander Khalil Al Wazir (Abu Jihad) in Damascus last week.

(Continued on page 5)

Blessed is the ploughing hand

JORDAN VALLEY (J.T.) — A recent impact assessment report of the Jordan Valley development programme has concluded that investments there have brought tremendous returns. Since the early 1960's some \$775 million has gone into building canals and irrigation systems, constructing roads, and improving educational and health services. Funds and expertise were provided by the government and numerous international donors including the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) which contributed nearly \$348 million. According to Dr. Steven Shepley, senior economist and chief of party for the team of consultants

who conducted the assessment. "A key factor in the success of the Jordan Valley experiment was the guidance provided by the Jordan Valley Authority. The existence of an agency that could plan and implement projects to serve the full range of needs in the valley made it possible to use huge amounts of donor funds productively."

One has only to observe the traffic on the valley's highway, the plastic greenhouses and cultivated fields, and the bustling commerce in valley towns to see the results of the development effort. According to the report, per capita income has risen from JD 270 in 1979 to JD 426 in 1986.

Increasing prosperity created a kind of magnet for people looking for a better life, and the valley's population increased from 64,000 in 1973 to 124,000 in 1986. These people, and the money they earned, created a demand for other services — banks, beauty salons, car repairs, and schools.

The five person team headed by Shepley gathered statistics for the report and conducted a random survey of 40 households to assess social changes that may be accompanying economic progress. They found that "Jordan Valley society is becoming less tradition-bound, more outward-looking, and placing educational achievement and material progress higher on the scale of values. Over 55 per cent of valley residents, according to the survey, want university education for their daughters as well as their sons. The literacy rate for women has jumped from 48 per cent to 95 per cent in one generation. The report notes that "Jordan Valley women are spending more years in school, greater numbers are working outside the home in paid professional employment than ever before, and the mean age of marriage has increased from 17 to

19 years." Life expectancy in the valley is longer than for the country as a whole, and morbidity rates are lower. Infant mortality has decreased from 151 per 1,000 live births in 1961 to 55 at the present time.

The report concludes that "the composite picture drawn by these social change indicators is that of a Jordan Valley society that has advanced materially, socially, economically, intellectually, and physically over the past two decades. This mosaic of social evolution offers further testimony to the soundness of the integrated rural development approach" utilised by the Jordan Valley Authority and the government of Jordan.

"The only dark clouds hanging over this bright picture of Jordan Valley development," according to Shepley, "are external marketing problems." These problems have been caused by an increased production of some crops (tomatoes, eggplant, squash, and cucumbers) combined with less demand for them. Turkey, Cyprus, and Greece, with lower prices and higher quality, have captured an increasing share of Jordan's traditional markets in the Gulf area. Since 1983/84, Jordan's volume of exports to these markets has fallen more than 30 per cent. The gap between production and demand "has depressed farm-gate prices, reduced farmer profit margins, and created farmer liquidity problems as they find it increasingly more difficult to meet debt-service obligations incurred to finance advanced agricultural technology (plasticulture, drip irrigation, etc.)."

Dr. Shepley believes these marketing problems require the "most urgent attention." The report recommends seven steps to overcome market difficulties including "encouraging more competitive farmer-occupied marketing outlets, crop diversification, grades and standards to insure production and transport of internationally acceptable produce, private/public sector competition, and policy review and coordination to insure that policies such as retail price fixing and cropping controls do not constrain market development efforts."

The report's analysis of Jordan Valley agriculture showed that farmers overuse water, pesticides, and fertiliser by 10-20 per cent. Proper use of these inputs would decrease farmer's costs. The report recommends the development of research-based information concerning optimal dosage and treatment levels to guide farmers for each of their crops. Instances of pesticide poisoning among workers in the valley indicate the need for further controls on pesticides and for education and procedures to protect field workers who handle the hazardous substances throughout the year. The report observes that while data to assess the impact of agricultural chemicals on the valley's environment, for example bird life, is not currently available, both the use and misuse of certain chemicals is a cause for concern.

Jordan Valley Development Indicators

	1973	1986
Value per dunum		
Vegetables	JD 22	JD 218
Fruits	JD 194	JD 455
Public Utilities: % of population served		
Potable Water	10%	100%
Electricity	10%	90%
Paved roads	60 km	1600 km



Strawberry farming in the Jordan Valley (Petra photo)



(Above) greenhouse farming along the East Ghor Canal and (below) new land being reclaimed in the southern Ghor (File photos)



TV & RADIO

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Tel. 773111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

14:00	Koran
14:25	Programme review
14:30	Cartoons
14:50	Children's series
15:30	Religious programme
15:45	Ramadan puzzle
16:15	Arabic play
17:10	Cooking programme
17:20	Religious series
17:50	Health and Fasting
18:00	Arabic comedy
18:50	Ramadan contest
19:00	Religious programmes
19:30	Varieties programme
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Arabic series
21:30	Puzzles from all over the world
22:00	Historical series
22:30	News summary in Arabic
23:10	Arabic series
23:30	Arabic play

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00	Rue Carnot
18:30	L'Ecole des Fams
19:00	News in French
19:15	Science A la communication
19:30	News in Hebrew
19:45	Varieties
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	My Husband and I
21:10	World in Flames
22:00	News in English
22:30	Detective series
23:30	Richman, Poorman

RADIO JORDAN

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Tel. 774111-19

07:00	Light Music
07:30	News Bulletin
08:00	Morning Show
10:00	News Summary
11:00	In Concert
12:00	News Summary
12:05	Pop Talk
13:00	News Summary
13:05	Pop between civil
14:00	News Bulletin
14:10	Instrumentals
14:30	Science Report
15:00	Concert Hour
16:00	News Summary
16:05	Instrumentals
16:30	Old Favourites
17:00	Listeners' Choice
18:00	News Summary
18:05	Rhythm and Blues
19:00	News Bulletin
19:30	Date with a Star
20:00	Evening Show

BBC WORLD SERVICE

639, 720, 1323 KHz

07:00	Newswatch 07:30 The Seven Ages of Man 07:45 Reflections 07:50 Financial Review 08:00 World News 08:05 Ten-Ten-Five Hours News Summary 08:30 Big Bands — The Singers 08:45 Letter from America 09:00 Newsdesk 09:30 Jazz for the Asking 10:00 World News 10:05 24 Hours: News Summary 10:30 From Our Own Correspondent 10:45 Book Choice 10:50 Waveguide 11:00 World News 11:05 Reflections 11:15 Measures Yours 12:00 World News 12:05 The Sunday Papers 12:15 Science in Action 12:45 Squaring the Triangle 13:00 News Summary: Short Story 13:15 Classical Record Review 13:30 Religious Service 14:00 World News 14:05 News About Britain 14:15 From Our Own Correspondent 14:30 Musical Masters of the Baroque 15:00 News Summary followed by Play of the Week: Sarcophagus 16:00 World News 16:05 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary 16:30 Sports Roundup 16:45 The Tony Mott Request Show including at 17:00 News Summary 17:30 Jazz Score 18:00 Radio News 18:15 Sports world 19:00 World News 19:05 Commentary 19:15 Can Communism Cop? 19:45 Letter from America 20:00 World News 20:05 Reflections 20:15 Jazz for the Asking 20:45 Sports Roundup 21:00 Newsdesk 21:30 My Word 22:00 News Summary followed by Classical Record Review 22:15 The Mormon Conquest 23:00 World News
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VOICE OF AMERICA

MW 1200 & SW 7200, 9565, 1174, 11925 and 15210 Hz

07:00	News 07:10 VOA Morning 08:00 News 08:10 VOA Morning 09:00 News 09:10 VOA Morning 10:00 News 10:10 VOA Morning 11:00 News 11:10 VOA Morning 12:00 News 12:10 VOA Morning 13:00 News 13:10 VOA Morning 14:00 News 14:10 VOA Morning 15:00 News 15:10 VOA Morning 16:00 News 16:10 VOA Morning 17:00 News 17:10 VOA Morning 18:00 News 18:10 VOA Morning 19:00 News 19:10 VOA Morning 20:00 News 20:10 VOA Morning 21:00 News 21:10 VOA Morning 22:00 News 22:10 VOA Morning 23:00 News 23:10 VOA Morning 24:00 News 24:10 VOA Morning
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WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS

EXHIBITIONS

* Exhibition of photographs of Jordan at the Spanish Cultural Centre.

* The British Council is showing an exhibition of work by British illustrators. There is also a continuous showing of the video "7 Illustrators at Work" throughout the exhibition.

* North Korean art exhibition at the Royal Cultural Centre.

* Book and Computer exhibition at Zarqa Community College.

* Plastic Art Festival by 30 Jordanian and Arab artists at Tower Building.

FILM

* "The Tin Drum" (German) at 6:10 p.m. at Yarmouk University in Irbid.

CULTURAL CENTRES

Royal Cultural Centre	Tel. 661026/7
American Centre	644371
American Centre Library	641520
British Council	6361478
French Cultural Centre	637009
Goethe Institute	641903
Soviet Cultural Centre	644203
Spanish Cultural Centre	624849
Turkish Cultural Centre	639777
Yahya Arts Centre	665195
Hussein Youth City	667181
Y.W.C.A.	641793
Y.W.M.C.A.	644251
Amman Municipal Library	637111
Univ. of Jordan Library	843555

MUSEUMS

"Children's Heritage and Science Museum." Fun and knowledge for all ages, plus a small planetarium at the Haya Arts Centre. Open all week 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed on Friday.

Jordan National Gallery: Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculptures by contemporary Jordanian artists from most of the Muslim countries and a collection of paintings by 19th Century orientalist artists. Muntazah, Jabal Luweibdeh. Opening hours: 10:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 630128.

Martyrs' Memorial (Military Museum): Collection of military memorabilia dating from the Arab Revolt of 1916. Sports City, Amman. Opening hours 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Closed Saturdays. Tel. 664240.

The Amman Lions Club. Meetings every first and third Wednesday at the Regency Palace hotel, 7:30 p.m.

Lions Philadelphian Club. Meetings every second and fourth Wednesday at the Amman Hotel, 7:30 p.m.

Philadelphian Rotary Club. Meetings every Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 1:30 p.m.

Rotary Club. Meetings every Tuesday at the Intercontinental Hotel, 2:00 p.m.

Royal Automobile Club. Jabal Amman, Eighth Circle. Tel. 816534, 817534.

St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Amman, Tel. 624590.

Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) Jabal Luweibdeh, Tel. 637440.

De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Hussein, Tel. 661757.

Terraced Church (Roman Catholic), Jabal Luweibdeh, mass in Italian language, meet every Saturday at 5:30 p.m.

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08) 53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS ROYAL JORDANIAN (RJ) FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)

10:15	Agaba (RJ)
10:30	Kuwait (RJ)
10:40	Jeddah (RJ)
10:55	Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
11:00	Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
11:30	Cairo (RJ)
11:45	London (RJ)
12:00	New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
19:00	Paris (RJ)
19:05	Los Angeles, Chicago, Vienna (RJ)

OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2)

09:15	Berlin, Larnaca (IF)
10:35	Cairo (MS)
11:40	Damascus (AZ)
12:30	Baghdad (IA)
13:50	Sharja, Doha (GF)
14:35	Kuwait (LN)
14:55	Kuwait (RJ)
16:00	Jeddah (SV)
17:35	Athens (OA)
19:25	Frankfurt (LH)
20:15	Beirut (ME)
22:05	Cairo (MS)

DEPARTURES ROYAL JORDANIAN (RJ) FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)

08:00	Agaba (RJ)
12:00	Vienna, New York (RJ)
12:05	Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)
13:30	Cairo (RJ)
20:35	Kuwait, Doha (RJ)
20:45	Dubai, Muscat (RJ)
20:50	Bahrain, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
20:55	Baghdad (RJ)
21:00	Larnaca (RJ)
21:05	Jeddah, Sana'a (RJ)
21:15	Damascus (RJ)
22:30	Kuala Lumpur, Singapore (RJ)
23:00	Bangkok (RJ)

OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2)

06:30	Damascus, Frankfurt (LH)
10:00	Damascus, Paris (AF)
10:40	Larnaca, Berlin (IF)
11:20	Cairo (MS)
12:30	Rome (AZ)
14:00	Baghdad (IA)
14:50	Bahrain, Doha, Sharjah, Muscat (GF)
15:30	Tripoli (LN)
15:35	Kuwait (KU)
17:40	Jeddah (SV)
18:20	Athens (OA)
18:15	Sana'a (LH)
22:50	Cairo (MS)

PRAYER TIMES

04:26	Fajr
05:50	(Sunrise) Dhuha
12:34	Dhuhr
16:14	'Asr
19:17	Maghrib
20:42	Isha

MONEY EXCHANGE

Local sell/buy rates in fils

Belgian franc	95.4/ 96.9
Dutch guilder	177.8/ 180.5
French franc	58.7/ 59.6
Italian lira	26.8/ 27.2
Japanese yen (for 100)	267.4/ 272
Swedish crown	56.9/ 57.7
Swiss franc	341.1/ 345.8
U.K. sterling pound	629.3/ 640.2
U.S. dollar	334.7/ 338.9
W. German mark	199.1/ 202.7

WEATHER

It will be partly cloudy, with slight increase in temperature, and the winds will be northeasterly moderate. In Agaba, it will be partly cloudy with chances for scattered showers. Winds will be northerly moderate and calm seas.

Amman Min./max. temp. 7 / 18

Agaba 10 / 27

Decatur 9 / 20

Jordan Valley 10 / 34

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 28 / 38, Agaba 30 / 40, Decatur 28 / 38, Jordan Valley 30 / 40.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.

EMERGENCIES

Amman governorate	891228
Amman Civil Defence	198, 199
Civil Defence Irbid	271293, 271331
Civil Defence Qawasmeh	770733
Civil Defence Deir Alla	57306
Ambulance	193, 77511
Amman downtown fire brigade	198
First aid	630341
Blood Bank	778303
Fire headquarters	632000-5
Civil Defence rescue	661111
Police headquarters	192, 621111, 637777
Police rescue	639141
Traffic police	896390/1
Electric Power Co.	636381/4, 624881
Municipal water complaints	771125/8
Queen Alia Int'l. Airport	(08)5335060

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:	
Dr. Mahmoud Allan	890940
Dr. Najj Tayem	890940
Dr. Majed Abu Sncini	890940
Dr. A. Al Sha'er	890940
First pharmacy	890940
Ferdows pharmacy	770303
Al Asama pharmacy	632072
Nairokh pharmacy	620772
Al Salam pharmacy	630772
Yacoub pharmacy	640661
Shmeisani pharmacy	637072
TAXIS:	
Ahram taxi	660911
Zaid taxi	660911
Khayyam taxi	64156
Cairo taxi	620772
Jordan taxi	620772
Kurdi taxi	64156

HOSPITALS

Hussein Medical Centre	818313/32
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn.	644281/6
Akileh Maternity, J. Amn.	64241/2
Jabal Amman Maternity	62362
Malhas, J. Amman	636140
Palestine, Shmeisani	664171/4
Shmeisani Hospital	669131
University Hospital	845845/65
Al-Muassir Hospital	667227/9
The Islamic, Abdali	660127/57
Al-Ahli, Abdali	664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajreen	77101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh	77511/26
Army, Marka	891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital	602249/50
Amal Hospital	674155

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.	
Apple (French)	420 / 360
Apple (green)	470 / 400
Apple (Lebanese)	300 / 250
Banana	300 / 240
Banana (Mukammal)	300 / 240
Beans	300 / 280
Beans (broad)	160 / 180
Cabbage	130 / 100
Carrot	170 / 140
Cauliflower (white)	180 / 140
Cucumbers	280 / 230
Green beans	130 / 100
Onion	220 / 180
Pepper (hot)	280 / 230
Pepper (sweet)	220 / 180
Radish	140 / 100
Spinach	200 / 160
Tomatoes	200 / 160
Vine leaves	400 / 300

Cabinet decides to float development bonds

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — The cabinet Saturday decided to float development bonds worth JD 10 million to the public.

The bonds are normally issued by the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) and can be sold by commercial banks operating in Jordan, in accordance with CBJ regulations issued in February.

The CBJ said that the measure was taken to broaden the scope of raising financial instruments, in a bid to create a secondary market for government bills and bonds.

The cabinet Saturday endorsed an amendment to the Jordanian banking law, making it mandatory for all banks and financial institutions in Jordan to work for a two-year period in the public sector.

The cabinet also announced its endorsement of "employment bills" for the Civil Service Commission, the Free Zones Corporation and the Institute of Public Administration.

Ajlouni: Agreements with Egypt are to boost tourism

AMMAN — Minister of Tourism Zuhair Ajlouni said in an interview published Saturday that Jordan's tourist agreements with Egypt are bound to help boost the tourism industry in Jordan and Egypt alike.

He said that the agreements are designed to organise joint trips for foreign tourists to Sinai and Aqaba and the southern region of Jordan.

Tourism authorities in both countries have already published maps and tourist charts defining tourist attractions in both countries and have embarked on feasibility studies, paving the ground for joint tourist ventures.

Referring to the tourist attractions in Jordan, he said the country abounds with archaeological sites and historic places which attract tourists from Arab and foreign countries.

The minister said that 270,000 Arabs mainly from the Gulf regions, 100,000 foreign tourists from Europe and Asia came to the Kingdom in 1987 according to statistics.

Most of the tourists and visitors, Ajlouni noted, come to the Kingdom in the summer when they are accompanied by their children in the holidays and when the country's climate is at its best.

The minister referred to the Royal Jordanian, the national carrier, as instrumental in promoting tourism in Jordan through its organisation of festivals and marketing Jordan's attractions abroad, and transporting tourist groups from European countries to Jordan.

He said that his ministry will introduce new tariffs for visitors at the Ma'in Spa complex and other attractions in a manner that would enable more and more Jordanians to give priority to domestic tourism over trips abroad which are costly.

He also referred to improvements in facilities for the benefit of vacationers visiting forests and public parks which are being introduced on a large scale.



ROMANIAN ENVOY: Upper House of Parliament Speaker Ahmad Lawzi confers in his office Saturday with Romania's Ambassador to Jordan Teodor Coman. They discussed Jordanian-Romanian relations and bilateral cooperation in parliamentary affairs (Petra photo).

Olympic tennis playoffs begin Monday

By Munem Fakhouri
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A process of sorting out groups, involved in the playoffs for the Olympic tennis games to be held in Seoul, South Korea, takes place Sunday at the Jordanian Tennis Federation headquarters.

The decision on the groupings will be under the supervision of Thomas Holburg, a representative of the International Tennis Federation who arrived in Amman Saturday.

Jordan, which is expected to be grouped with Lebanon, Kuwait and Bahrain, is expected to play

against the guest teams starting Monday.

All matches are expected to be held at the Jordanian Tennis Federation grounds in the Sports City according to the federation's Secretary General Ismael Jarallah. Referees from Yugoslavia and other countries are expected to supervise the matches, according to Jarallah.

He said that players from Kuwait and Bahrain are expected Sunday; but the four-member Lebanese team has already arrived in Amman.

The federation board Saturday held a meeting and decided to

name Hassan Saoudi as head of the Jordanian team supervising the playoffs and Ismael Jarallah as director general of the playoffs process.

Winners in the playoffs will qualify for the second stage which involves tennis matches to be held in Tokyo on May 9, when it will be decided on the teams that will go to the Seoul Olympic Games.

According to Jarallah, matches for women will be held in singles since the Lebanese team has brought in only one woman player. Jordan's two women players are Mariada and Aida Abu Jaber.

Training of Amman recruits for People's Army to begin in 1989

AMMAN (J.T.) — Training of recruits for the People's Army in the Amman governorate is scheduled to begin in 1989 to be followed by training of citizens in Zarqa governorate, according to the People's Army Commander Major-General Badruddin Al Widyani.

He said in a statement to Al Dustour Arabic daily that those required to undergo training are the following: Jordanian students

in the secondary school stage and in the community colleges and universities, all males between 16 and 55 years of age and living in the Kingdom, females above 16 and under 45 years of age upon their own desire.

Gen. Widyani said that training programmes, which last six weeks, will be organised in a manner that would not affect the recruits' work and their contribution to the national economy.

He said the recruits normally are trained in the use of light arms, civil defence operations, first aid to injured people and nursing. Widyani noted that according to law, citizens will have to come up with acceptable reasons for not taking the required training, otherwise they will be liable to a three month imprisonment or the payment of JD 50, or both penalties as passed by a military court.

Higher council to discuss nursing

AMMAN — The Higher Health Council is due to meet at Al Hussein Medical Centre in Amman Monday to discuss questions related to the nursing profession in Jordan in general, and a strategy for the years until the year 2,000.

Also to be discussed is the curricula for teaching nursing, and a working paper on nursing at all stages, prepared by Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST).

Health Minister Zaid Hamzeh who is expected to attend the meeting said last month that Jordan still lacks sufficient number of nurses and midwives to work in health centres across the country.

He said in a lecture delivered in Aqaba that though more and more females are applying to nursing schools, the Health Ministry, for the time being, continues to make up for the shortage by employing foreign nurses.

Hamzeh said that the Health Ministry has concluded contracts with nurses from China and will shortly draw up contracts for bringing in nurses from Poland specialising in the treatment of mental patients.

At present, he said, the ministry is building an institute for training instructors in nursing, a project which would help provide sufficient number of nurses in all fields.

Aqaba Railway Corporation suffers from lack of proper maintenance

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Aqaba Railway Corporation (ARC), which transports most of the phosphate from the mines at Al Hasa and Al Abiad in southern Jordan to Aqaba, suffers from a chronic problem: proper maintenance of locomotives and compartments, according to the corporation's Director General Mardi Qattamin.

He said in an interview with the Sawt Al Shaab Arabic daily that the corporation has 29 locomotives and 560 compartments, operating between the phosphate mines in the south and Aqaba where the product is exported.

The railway lacks proper workshops for maintenance and recently a tender has been awarded to a local company for building a workshop in Aqaba to maintain trains.

Work on the project, and the

installation of equipment, is expected to be completed later this year, Qattamin noted.

He said that once the workshop has been completed more facilities will be available for transporting the phosphate to Aqaba for export.

Another reason for improper transportation, Qattamin said, is the shortage of technicians who can carry out the maintenance work.

The ARC used to have 82 Indian maintenance workers, but now it has only 11, who are considered as specialists, helping the local technicians with their work, Qattamin noted.

But, he said, the persisting shortage might force the Hijaz Railway to enlist the help of technicians from Egypt and Syria, because more trains could be needed in the future, in view of the expansion of phosphate production at the mines.

Qattamin noted that production at the new Shidiyah Phosphate Mines is expected to start soon, and ARC trains will be needed to transport the rock to Aqaba.

Shidiyah is 39 kilometres away from the existing railway, and there will be need for linking the present rail network with the Shidiyah complex to carry the phosphate, Qattamin said.

"But linking the Shidiyah Mines can not be done without a government decision," Qattamin noted.

It was due to the presence of phosphate in the south that prompted the ARC to expand its rail network which was first established in 1972.

The total railway linking the main production centres in the south with Aqaba now extends to 293 kilometres, Qattamin added.

Referring to the accidents on the rail line, he said that they were reduced from 19 accidents in 1986 to eight in 1987, and with the introduction of modern equipment and maintenance workshop very few accidents will be expected.

Qattamin said that the main reason for those accidents was the weakness of the rail line which was originally designed to carry 1.5 million tonnes a year, and for 10 years only. In recent years, he

Jordan's disabled to enjoy horse riding

By Meg Abu Hamdan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Horse riding is one of the best ways of improving both physical and mental well being — a fact that is just as true for able-bodied people as well as for those that are disabled.

Unfortunately because of the many difficulties involved, disabled people do not often get the chance to learn.

Now, however, with the recent formation of a Riding for the Disabled Association (RDA) in Amman, six children from the Al Hussein Society for the Rehabilitation of the Physically Handicapped will have that chance.

RDA was given extra inspiration in its early years by Madam Laz Hartel who although unable to walk went on to win the silver medal for dressage in the Olympic Games at Helsinki. The RDA now caters for 21,224 riders in Britain, a figure which continues to rise.

Modest start

The idea for establishing a RDA here in Amman began with Mrs. Jill Goddard, who had been impressed, during a recent trip to England, with the work of the British RDA, which has been working with both mentally and physically handicapped adults and children since 1969.

Started originally by Miss Olive Sands MCSP, who took some horses to an Oxford hospital to help in the recuperation of soldiers wounded in World War II.

Although starting very modestly, the six handicapped children here in Amman will receive one hour's tuition a week from Mrs. Goddard, a highly qualified horse riding instructor, and from the resident physiotherapist (Mr. Salah) at the Al Hussein Society.

Riding tiny Shetland ponies, the use of which has been kindly donated by Hani Bisharat of the Arabian Horse Club, the children will each be assisted by three voluntary helpers.

The benefits of riding to the children although not usually dramatic are, as the British RDA have found, many.

As well as improving the circulation, the pelvic movement created in the rider by the swing of the horse's back exactly coincides with the natural pelvic movement of walking, so even walking on a leading rein improves the bodily functions of a chairbound rider.

The heart, lungs and kidneys benefit from the increased effort which also results in a healthier skin, increased energy, improved digestion, symmetrical stretching of the muscles, as well as reducing the risk of infection.

The rider will find these subtle benefits to be incalculable and the psychological benefits are just as great. As one of the people associated with the British RDA says, "a child born with a disability has a distorted image of himself as a person. To be on the back of a pony, able to look down at others, to move at will faster or slower and to be a little bit scared by a new experience are all stimulating, fun and a tremendous boost to self confidence. In addition riding provides discipline, self-control, encourages kindness

and a development of the skill which builds on abilities, not disabilities."

Coming out to Jordan next week, courtesy of the Royal Jordanian airline, to give the newly formed RDA extra support will be Philippa Verry. Although born without arms, Philippa is a fine horse rider, taking part in showjumping competitions all round Britain, and while in Jordan she will give, as she does back home, a display of her equestrian skills to which all are welcome.

Philippa feels its the attitude of the individual that matters. "I don't feel handicapped in any way," she says, "being without arms has never stopped me doing anything I liked and never will."

Philippa, who has spent all her life around horses, now works as a stable hand, grooming, feeding, tacking up and riding using only her feet.

Anybody wanting to help the RDA in any way should contact either Mrs. Joan Gardiner on 812618 or Mrs. Jill Goddard on 877208. Riding lessons for the disabled will take place every Saturday at 4 p.m. at the Arabian Horse Club.



Handicapped children are being briefed on horses and riding (File photo)

5 killed, 18 hurt in different incidents

AMMAN (J.T.) — Five people died and 18 others were injured in a number of incidents that occurred around the Kingdom in the past 24 hours, according to a Civil Defence Department (CDD) statement Saturday.

The statement said that a 55 year old man died after being knocked down by a dump-truck at Al Hasa Phosphate Mine, a 19-year-old woman died in a fire

that broke out at her home in Sarfa, near Karak and a 45-year-old man died of his wounds sustained in a fall from a high place in the Karak region.

Two other people aged 82 and 80 died in Mazar and Amman in two separate road accidents.

According to the statement, an unidentified person fired several shots at a 36-year-old man identified as S.M.S., inflicting injuries

on the victim, who was rushed to the Karak governorate hospital for treatment.

The police in Karak are holding an investigation.

Most of the injured in the incidents were victims of road accidents, and one person was the victim of food poisoning in the Karak region, according to the statement.

Karak sewerage project completed

KARAK (Petra) — The Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ) has taken delivery of a completed sewerage network for Karak city in southern Jordan.

The Karak governor said that all parts of the city and only parts of the districts of Marj and Thalajah will benefit from the project which cost JD 850,270.

The project, he said, entailed laying cement pipes along 32 kilometres and metal pipes along nine kilometres.

According to the governor a wastewater treatment plant attached to the project cost JD 827,620 will be opened soon.

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

ART FESTIVAL: Her Royal Highness Princess Wijdan Ali Saturday opened a plastic art festival for 30 Jordanian and Arab artists at the Tower Building. The festival, organised by Jordanian artist Ayad Al Nimer, runs throughout the holy month of Ramadan.

SCHOOL ANNEXES: The Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment has decided to build 27 classrooms to serve as annexes to 11 schools in villages around Mafrq. It said that it has allocated JD 70,000 for the classrooms which will accommodate 700 additional male and female students. A tender for the construction of the annexes will be announced in the coming month, it said.

WOMEN PREACHERS: Women preachers appointed by the Ministry of Awaqaf and Islamic Affairs are currently conducting tours of mosques in the Irbid governorate to spread awareness among the female worshippers about the meaning of fasting in the holy month of Ramadan. These preachers deliver lectures and conduct group meetings in the course of conducting their mission which will last throughout the month. The meetings are being held in the governorate's main mosques.

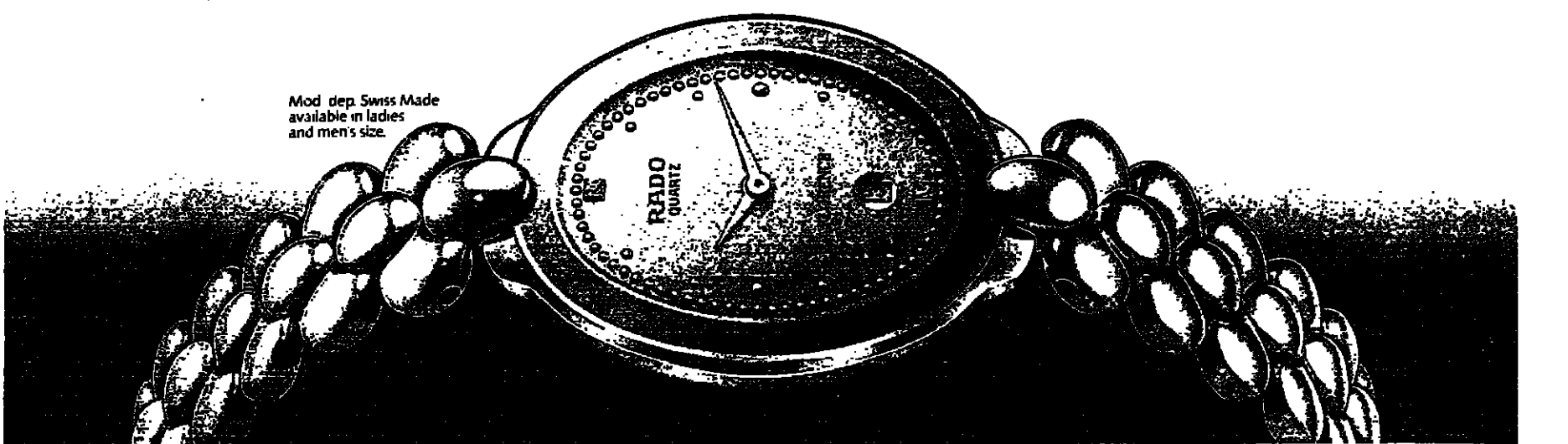
CIVIL DEFENCE COURSE: The Civil Defence Department (CDD) in Karak Saturday opened a training course for women in civil defence work. A total of 35 participants will hear lectures and carry out first aid, fire fighting and rescue operations under CDD supervision during the week-long course.

ZARQA EXHIBITION: A book and computer exhibition was opened at the community college in Zarqa Saturday. On display for seven days are 20,000 books on various subjects which include books for children and publications by Jordanian and Palestinian authors about the uprising in the occupied Arab territories. It also displays computer equipment and tapes with religious recordings.

MAN JAILED FOR 8 YEARS: The military court has sentenced Qasem Assad Saad to eight years in prison after being found in possession of heroin. The military governor Saturday endorsed the sentence.

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Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation
Established 1975

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Sunday's Economic Pulse

By Dr. Fahed Fanek

External trade resumes growth

JORDANIAN imports of commodities in 1982 reached an all time high of JD 1,142 million. Until then imports were leaping forward year after year. With that growth of imports, the trade balance posted a huge deficit. The commodity trade deficit was growing rapidly because the growth of national exports of commodities, though higher as a percentage, was too little in absolute figures to match the increase in imports.

However, imports of commodities began to decrease every year starting from 1983 until the value of imports bottomed off in 1986 at JD 850.2 million. After four consecutive years of decrease in imports, analysts thought it would be a continuing trend. The governor of the Central Bank of Jordan predicted in the summer of 1987 that imports would decrease for that year, and that the decrease would reduce the trade deficit and improve the balance of payments. Contrary to his expectations, imports of commodities started to accelerate as of August 1987 for no obvious reason. Total imports for 1987 exceeded those of 1986 by JD 65.3 million, a rate of 7.7 per cent, far higher than any prediction provided thus far.

On the other hand, national exports of commodities reacted its peak of JD 261 million in 1984. A setback took place in 1985 and continued through 1986, when exports bottomed off at JD 225

million. That was the lowest since 1983.

National exports of commodities resumed growth in 1987. Exports grew by JD 23.2 million, an impressive jump of 10.3 per cent over the year before.

That obviously shows that the growth rate of exports outperformed that imports; yet the result in absolute figures was such that the trade deficit increased for the first time since 1982, and caused the balance of payments to deteriorate in contrast with the Central Bank predictions.

Trade deficit has always been a major component of the deficit in the current account of the balance of payments. The deficit has been narrowing since 1983. The improvement was taken as a reflection of a healthy adjustment in the external economy dictated by the current economic recession which started in the second half of 1982.

To complete the external trade picture we have to mention the jump registered in the activity of re-exports which posted a surplus of JD 36.5 in 1987 over the level achieved in 1986. When we take this surplus into account, the final net increase in trade deficit would be reduced to only JD 5.6 million. Re-exports included an airplane worth JD 23 million. If this exceptional and none recurring

item was excluded from the analysis, the net negative change in trade deficit for 1987 would be JD 28.6 million, an over turn of the trend of improvement experienced during the last four years.

On the brighter side, one can take these new trends in imports, exports, and re-exports as indicators that the Jordanian economy is finally emerging from the long recession. However the increase in imports at this high rate calls for concern, especially when the government economic policy did not encourage it nor did it expect a continuation in imports decline.

We definitely welcome any indicator evidencing the halt or retreat of economic recession, but we are equally eager to protect the structural gains and the spontaneous adjustments that took place during the past five years, demonstrated by lower foreign imports and more dependence on domestic products.

However, one has to note that the above analysis was totally based on values of imports and exports expressed in the Jordanian dinar. Since the exchange rate of the dinar was considerably lower in 1987, the results could be reversed if we use the constant value of SDR's. The increase in trade deficit for the year as a whole could be taken as a classic application of the "J" curve, whereby the reduction in exchange rate of a given country would worsen the situation before starting to cause the desired improvements.

A matter of freedom, equality

THE question of whether to suspend South African-born British runner Zola Budd from international sports for a limited period for her continued links with South Africa has been painted in different pictures by proponents and opponents. The British Amateur Athletics Board (BAAB) faces the difficult question of whether to bar Budd for a minimum period of 12 months or risk the ruling by the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) that the entire British track and field squad cannot participate in the Seoul Olympics. Interestingly enough, the issue has entered the British parliament, where Conservatives and Labourites are waging counter-campaigns; needless to say, the Conservatives are against imposing any ban on Budd while Labour is pressing for government pressure on the BAAB to suspend the runner. It is typical that British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, who opposes any "sanctions" on South Africa for its racist policies, has pronounced the IAAF stand as "repugnant", and ridiculed it by saying "so much effort is now concerned with stopping a young woman competing in international athletics."

We wish it were as simple as that. We do agree that Budd is full of promise and might even come away with flying colours from Seoul or any other international meet. But that is no consolation to the fact that one cannot isolate the entire issue from the international move against South Africa's apartheid policy. The outcome of the battle over Budd will have a significant bearing on world enthusiasm in adhering to the code of conduct that a majority of countries follows while dealing with South Africa, whether on the political level, in sports or otherwise.

It will seem strange that the government of Britain, a signatory to the Gleneagles agreement that restricts sporting links with South Africa, is reluctant to live up to the spirit of the agreement; but a closer review of the former colonial power's practices towards South Africa will show beyond any doubt that it has had a poor record of living up to its loud condemnation of racism, especially when it comes to one of its own creations in the African continent.

The Budd case is indeed a litmus test for the international community, whether to allow any country to get away with tactical violations of an internationally adopted code of conduct on technical grounds. It will not only add to the endless violations of international agreements and charters, but will also pose a big question mark on the U.N.-led drive to force South Africa to mend its ways. To back down on such a vital issue would be a serious blow to the aspirations of the struggle of South African blacks for freedom and equality.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Prince reaffirms Jordan's stand

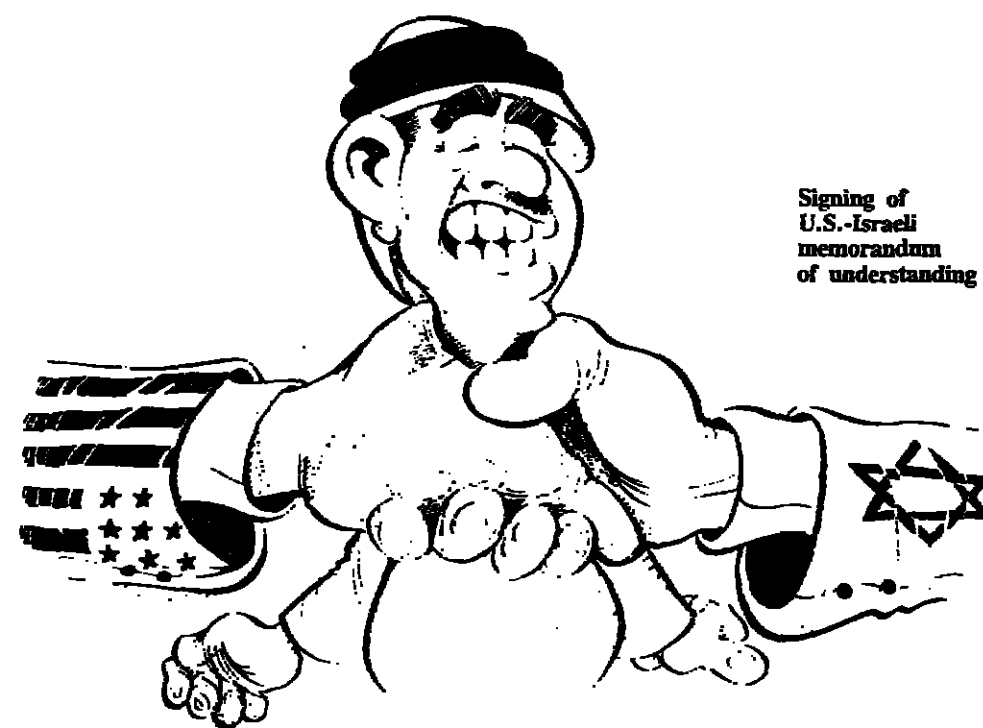
PRINCE Hassan addressed journalists in Tokyo, reaffirming Jordan's stand with regard to a Middle East peace settlement by reiterating the points included in a Jordanian document submitted to U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz during his latest tour in our region. Prince Hassan, at the same time, made it clear that Israel's total withdrawal from all parts of the occupied Arab territories remains the basis for any Arab-Israeli settlement. He referred to Japan as a major power which plays a positive role in bringing about peace among nations, and at the same time helping towards achieving economic prosperity world-wide. Japan believes that material power combined with spiritual influence and moral behaviour should together form a criteria for dealings among world nations. He said indeed Japan serves as a model for such a behaviour, and through its advanced knowledge it is qualified to help bring about peace based on justice and economic prosperity. For the Arabs, it should be clear that advanced technological knowledge combined with their faith should together constitute a power with which they can deal with the Zionist challenge. It should be clear for the Arabs also that their common Israeli enemy and its allies are waging a material war against the Arab Nation and for this reason they commit acts of terrorism against the Palestinians undeterred by any principles or norm of conduct.

Al Dustour: Prince pays tribute to Japan

PRINCE Hassan spoke at a press conference in Tokyo, paying tribute to Japan's experiment and expressing Jordan's desire to promote its cooperation with Japan in various fields. Jordan, the Prince said, should benefit from cooperation with a major world economic power, and benefit from its technological and scientific achievements. Such cooperation Prince Hassan said, would prompt Japan to contribute more effectively towards resolving regional issues and putting an end to conflicts among nations. Prince Hassan briefed his hosts on Jordan's firm and just stand with regard to the Middle East problem, reiterating the basic principles in which Jordan and the Arab Nation believes for the attainment of genuine and lasting peace. He said that the Arabs are all agreed on the need for convening an international conference for the attainment of peace based on justice and on restoring the rights of the Palestinian people. Prince Hassan said that the Arabs at large look with admiration to Japan's experiments and to further forms of cooperation with the Japanese people in economic and technological fields.

Sawt Al Shaab: Jordan's clear stand

PRINCE Hassan delivered an address to the press club in Tokyo presenting a clear picture of Arab-Japanese relations in general and Jordan's cooperation with Japan in particular. The Prince dwelt on two important points: Economic cooperation which would enable Japan to help Arab development and Japan's role in helping to settle regional problems. Prince Hassan stressed Jordan's clear stand with regard to the Arab-Israeli conflict and the six point document handed to U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz concerning the solution of the Middle East problem. He said Japan is one of the advanced nations which had achieved tremendous economic progress in a relatively short period of time and at the same time pursued well-balanced policies in its relations with the world. He said that as Jordan pursues its endeavours towards peace, it can only find encouragement in Japan's policies, and hopes for further cooperation.



Samih Hosni - Al Sha'ab

Forty years on, Israel is still embattled

By Paul Taylor
Reuter

TEL AVIV — Forty years after the creation of their state, many Israelis believe they are still fighting their war of "independence."

A Palestinian uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip has left the Jewish state in little mood to celebrate.

The revolt among the 1.5 million Palestinians who have lived under Israeli rule since 1967 has once again made Israelis feel embattled, reviving a belief among many of Israel's 3.5 million Jews that their country stands alone against a hostile world.

Israel's international image, re-

paired after the damage caused by its 1982 invasion of Lebanon, has been badly dented by the four-month-old revolt, government officials say.

In a role reversal which angers many Israelis, their country has been depicted by cartoonists as a Jewish Goliath lumbering against a plucky Palestinian David throwing stones.

The state that saw itself as a "model democracy" in the Middle East, proclaimed by Prime Minister David Ben Gurion as a "light unto nations," has been cast as the iron-fisted occupier of a disenfranchised Arab population.

Instead of pictures of wholesome Israeli youth, television viewers worldwide have for months seen pictures of young Israeli soldiers shooting and beating teenage Palestinian protesters.

Israelis, even among those who oppose Israeli rule over the occupied territories, feel they are

judged by a hypocritical double standard.

"Where else in the world would you have had so few casualties after four months of rioting?" asks foreign ministry spokesman Ehud Gol. "It is still a gentle occupation."

More than 150 Palestinians have died and several thousand have been injured in the protests. Two Israelis have also died.

The world sees Israel as strong and militarily dominant. But many Israelis still see themselves as beleaguered, prey to "terrorism" abroad and at home and surrounded by hostile Arab states arming themselves with new missiles and chemical weapons to strike at the Jewish state.

Defending the assassination of Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) commander Khalil al Wazir in Tunis last week, Yehuda Dayan, a Tel Aviv computer engineer, said:

"What else can we do? After 40 years of war, of terrorism and

attacks on us, we have no other choice."

Although the Palestinian rebellion does not threaten Israel's national survival and has done little serious economic harm, according to government figures, it has cast a mood of gloom and anger across the country.

Deputy chief of staff Major-General Ehud Barak announced last week that army reservists would have to serve up to 62 days of active duty in the occupied territories this year — the longest stint since the Lebanon war.

Every Israeli male aged up to 55 is liable for an annual call-up after completing three years of compulsory army duty.

One of Israel's leading strategic thinkers, reserve General Aharon Yariv, a former head of military intelligence and cabinet minister, says Israel should negotiate now to relinquish the territories, while it is still strong.

"Our strategic situation vis-a-vis the Arabs is still good, so the

time is ripe for negotiation," he told the Jerusalem Post in a 40th anniversary interview.

Israel marks the anniversary on April 21, the date in the Hebrew calendar corresponding to the date on which the state was proclaimed on May 14, 1948.

Yariv's view that Israel should, given security guarantees, allow the creation of a Palestinian state in the West Bank, is in a diminishing minority.

Opinion polls suggest the current uprising has reinforced the belief of a majority of Israelis that it is not safe to relinquish the territories or allow a Palestinian state.

A general election later this year could replace the current national unity coalition cabinet with a more aggressively right-wing nationalist government, dedicated at least on paper to annexing the occupied areas.

Liberal Israelis are disturbed by that prospect, but they too blame the Palestinians for spoiling their anniversary and masking

what they see as Israel's achievements.

Most of the world's 16 million Jews chose not to settle in Israel, but the country absorbed millions of Jewish immigrants from Europe, the Middle East, North Africa and the Soviet Union.

There has been bitter class rivalry between Sephardi Jews of oriental background and Ashkenazi Jews of European origin, but the conflict has been partly overcome by education, greater affluence and inter-marriage.

Religious and secular Israelis are still battling over how Jewish the state should be, but a much-prophesied dark age of intolerance has not enveloped the country.

Author Zeev Chafetz, a former director of the government press office, jokes that Israel, at 40, still does not know what it wants to be when it grows up.

The revolt in the occupied areas has added new urgency to that question, but brought no new answers.

And in divided Beirut life goes on

By Mariam Shahin
Special to the Jordan Times

BEIRUT — The city seems timeless with motion and commotion, green trees, street vendors, buildings riddled with bullet holes, and people coming and going to what seems to be endless appointments with doctors specialised in curing one ailment or another.

The war of the last 15 years has had its visible effect on both the people and their city. Barricades of old rusted cars, trains and other large objects divide the west from the east in locations too numerous to mention. For the most part the Lebanese Forces (the Kataeb) are on one side and the Amal militia on the other, occasionally shooting rounds of ammunition at each other, in what seems to have developed into a way of passing time.

The eastern sector looks like a new modern city where a building boom is taking place. Construction is everywhere: Office buildings, shopping malls with stores displaying brand names from all over the world are constantly opening. The cinemas are showing all the movies that have been nominated for Academy Awards in the U.S. Cars desperately try to move through the endless rows of vehicles, the city seems to consist of one big traffic jam.

It's Easter and an innkeeper points out that "in Lebanon we resurrect Christ twice, first on the Catholic date of April 3 and then on the Eastern Orthodox of April 10." A Lebanese guest, a BMW dealer boasts that he sold 34 of

the latest BMW models only twelve hours after they arrived, at a price of \$30,000 each. "Many people are living better now than they did before the war," says the dealer, with a smile. "Of course there are those who are worse off. A lot of people got rich playing with currencies, in particular the U.S. dollar. Well, as you know every war has its winners and losers." But neither his smile nor his commentary were genuine.

There are heaps of uncollected garbage everywhere: the collectors have asked for a 300 per cent pay rise. Currently a garbage collector's salary averages \$15 a month.

In the neighbourhood of Ain Rumane and Ashrafieh there are hardly any buildings that escaped the marks of bullets. Men are coming and going carrying plastic bags filled with vegetables and fruits, old white haired men and elderly ladies dressed in black slowly and quietly move along the streets, where huge posters of the late Pierre Gemayel and his son Bashir decorate the empty spaces on the city walls.

Fears, fears

Presidential elections will be held this summer. A young man says, that no matter what happens, the president must always be a Maronite. "You know that Lebanon has always had a Christian president; it is the only country in the Arab World that was democratic, now they want to take it away from us."

Who wants to take it away from

them?

"The Hizbollah, Amal, the Syrians, the Palestinians, all are interested in placing a Muslim in the presidential chair. We know that there are more Muslims than Christians in Lebanon today but we need to have one country in this part of the world where Christians rule. We cannot go from mini-skirts to wearing veils, imagine! Basically what we are afraid of is becoming like Iran."

Lebanon has been hit with an incredible economic crisis. What at one point was a relatively large middle class, enjoying the benefits of a prosperous society, has shrunk considerably. A journalist makes \$30 a month while an engineer may fetch up to \$150.

Civil servants are the ones who suffer most. Their salaries have not increased while the value of the lira has declined more than a hundredfold. Poverty has overcome what was once a middle class. Those who have relatives working in the Gulf countries or Europe received some financial aid, but against each family that receives aid there is one that does not.

In supermarkets, boutiques shops and even in book stores, items are priced in dollars. French francs or sterling pounds. Goods made in Lebanon are frequently priced in dollars. Thefts at supermarkets have become a common phenomenon.

East, west

An east Beirut proudly points out that in the past west Beirut was the centre of the city, now it is east Beirut, he smiles, some-

how the smile was not genuine. He has two children, he is an employee with an electrical company. His wife works as a secretary. "Before the economic problems began we used to go out to dinner three or four times a week, now its good if we go out once a month, we can't afford it anymore. But that is not the real problem. The real problem is that peace does not seem to be any closer. The state of conflict, the armed military conflict, has become an accepted fact of life. We are worried for the future of our children. Will they ever know a peaceful way of life? On the 'other side' people are very different from us, we have grown apart. I can't imagine us living together again."

As you go to west Beirut the hustle and bustle increases. The commercial part of the city seems much older, the streets denser and more crowded: There are fresh juices, flowers, French perfumes are sold on all the street corners. All the boutiques that are open in the eastern part of the city have sister stores in the west. The pictures on the empty walls are of Kamal Jumblatt and Musa Sadre.

There are old men on crutches and women wearing the black dress of mourning. A young man offers his services: "May I give you a tour of the sites, the American University, Clemonceau street? I have been trying to emigrate for five years, no country wants me. In the morning I work as a policeman and the afternoon I drive a taxi but today my car is in the garage

for repairs, that's why I have time to show you around. Can you help me emigrate? If you want we can get married. No? O.K. Do you have any friends who want to get married? I am earning around \$70 a month from both my jobs, that's a lot if you think about what others are earning, but still I will stay poor all my life if things remain like this. I need to emigrate."

Basic problems

The people in western Beirut are complaining of basic problems. Water and electricity are not always readily available. Telephones are frequently out of order. Young people are also frequently out of work. Walid, a book-keeper living in west Beirut explains:

"One of the reasons you have so many young men joining the militias, any militia, is because there are no well paying jobs; it's as if the militias have become an economic necessity not only for our young men but for their families as well. Besides after 15 years of war, many of them are not qualified to do anything else."

A student of medicine at the American University of Beirut explains: "Once Beirut was the educational capital of the Arab World, now most of the good professors have left, the foreigners left or were kidnapped, and most of the good Lebanese and Arab professors have also left. Some stayed for a number of years after the outbreak of the war, but then I guess it became too much for them. The number

of people who can afford to go to university in Lebanon are much less than before, private education has become a luxury. We depend on students from other Arab countries and those Lebanese who can still afford to go to the AUB."

In a street not far from the AUB there are at least ten flower shops. Looking along the street almost every man within 100 metres is carrying flowers. A Lebanese-American who recently returned to Lebanon to open a private business in west Beirut, offers his insights as a newcomer:

"It is very disturbing that we have so many foreigner troops in Lebanon. Unfortunately the Syrians have a peace-keeper role of some sort right now, but this situation cannot hold ground forever. The country has to be put back on its feet. All foreign troops have to get out of the country no matter what their role is. Then the Lebanese have to work out their problems together."

His sister, a housewife and resident of Beirut for the last thirty five years adds, "we want our children to know there is life beyond war."

After close to a decade and a half of sectarian strife, life in Beirut has changed considerably for almost everyone. Whether in the east or in the west, for the rich or the poor, for the Muslim or the Christian, for the young or the old, for men or for women, people are people wherever you go and in Beirut, one way or another life goes on.

Recapture of Fao peninsula gives Iraq major political lift

By John Rice
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Iraq's recapture of the Fao peninsula from Iran this week provided Baghdad with a major political victory, despite the limited military value of the dusty uninhabited wasteland.

The successful attack on the peninsula, extending from southern Iraq into the Gulf, robbed Tehran of a key bargaining chip that could be used if the countries ever negotiate for peace.

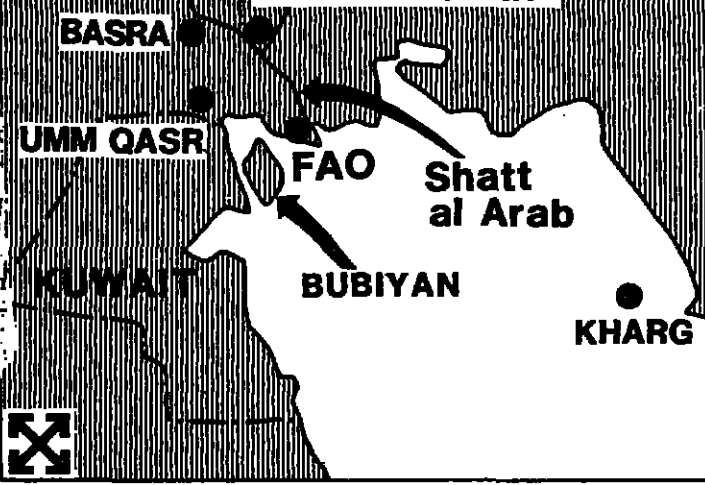
"It's insignificant as far as the military situation is concerned," a Baghdad-based Western diplomat said of the Iraqi victory. "But psychologically, it had been the needle in their flesh."

The Iraqis are hailing their recovery of Fao as one of their greatest military triumphs in the 7½-year-old Gulf war. While analysts doubt that, they concede it has given Baghdad a big morale boost.

The elite Presidential Guard and the Seventh Army Corps smashed through Iranian lines north of Fao Sunday. By Monday afternoon they had seized full control of the peninsula that dominates Iraq's two main outlets to the Gulf, the Shatt Al Arab and the Khor Abdullah waterways.

Iraq captured about 20 kilometres of the peninsula in February 1986. Iran renamed Fao city, an abandoned refinery town, Al Zahra and held a wrestling tournament there last year to emphasise its grip.

Although Iran still occupies other small chunks of Iraqi territory along the 1,175-kilometre, Fao was its prize.



The loss of Fao "turned Iraq into a landlocked country... and Iraq likes to think of itself as a Gulf country," said a Western analyst in Baghdad, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The war began in September 1980 partly because of a long-standing dispute between Iran and Iraq over who controls the Shatt Al Arab, the Gulf outlet of the Tigris and Euphrates rivers. Fao gave the Iraqis dominance on both sides of the waterway.

Iraq was thinking of Fao when it insisted on full application of a measure from the U.N. Security Council that demanded that the two countries withdraw to pre-war international boundaries as part of a cease-fire, the analyst said.

Iraq also had Fao largely in mind when it balked at the U.N. measure.

Iran loses major card

"It was the most important card the Iraqis held" in the scuffle for position over a possible peace settlement, the analyst said. The Fao battle also broke Iraq's strategy of static defence, whereby Iraqi troops would sit behind formidable protection and wait for Iranian attacks.

The Iraqis had stuck to that strategy since 1981 — so much so that many analysts had doubted they were capable of mounting an offensive.

The Iraqis may have thought the same and let their guard drop.

Iraq's only significant assault into Iran in recent years was in May 1986, when its troops captured the deserted and held border town of Mehran on the central front in retaliation for the loss of Fao. But victory turned quickly to debacle when Iran regained the town a month later, occupying much of the Iraqi force that had failed to seize the high ground around it.

Iraqi officers told reporters that Iran had about three divisions on Fao, between 10,000 and 25,000 men, far less than the 50,000 previously thought to be based there.

Strategic value

Fao's chief strategic value was that it bottled up Iraq's small navy by lining artillery along Iraq's only remaining outlet to the Gulf, the Khor Abdullah. The Shatt Al Arab to the east had been closed since the early days of the war.

But even that had only a limited value since the Iraqi navy has played little part in the war since its early phases.

Fao also gave Iran a platform closer to Kuwait from which it could launch missile attacks. Iran has accused Kuwait of aiding Iraq.

The diplomat, also speaking on condition of anonymity, said Iraq apparently captured an Iranian missile battery on Fao which it used to fire Chinese-made Silkworm missiles at Kuwait, whose capital is 80 kilometres southwest of the peninsula.

But Iran showed Tuesday that it could hit Kuwait from Iranian soil when it fired a Soviet-designed Scud missile into uninhabited desert near an oilfield.

Detained Gaza lawyer recounts Israeli brutality

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — A Gaza lawyer detained by the Israeli army has said in a sworn statement that soldiers had beaten him with machineguns and burned him with a cigarette since his arrest last month.

Raji Sourani, 33, also said at least 70 people suffered stomach poisoning in a detention camp in the southern Naqab, and 14 fainted there from dehydration.

A copy of an affidavit by Sourani, ordered to be detained without trial for six months since March 25, was obtained by Reuters Friday.

Sourani's document was passed to a prison visitor and made available to journalists.

During his transfer from the Naqab camp to one near the coast, Sourani said: "They (soldiers) beat me heavily with the ends of machineguns, like rain on me. About an hour later I lost feeling entirely in my left hand."

"When I complained, one of them put a cigarette over the fist of my right hand. A sign of the cigarette still shows as a small red circle on my right hand," he said in the document from Gaza central prison, where he is now held.

Sourani described his initial transfer from a camp in the Naqab to a detention centre on the Mediterranean coast, called "Ansar II" by Palestinians.

"Prisoners were beaten along the road from Beersheba to the coastal detention camp. I personally was beaten... I was slapped in the face and beaten in the back of my head and other parts of my body."

He wrote in the affidavit that prisoners were verbally abused, and forced to chant, "Long live the Israeli people."

However, Sourani described conditions at Gaza prison as "relatively reasonable."

Israeli and Palestinian lawyers and American and European groups have protested against his detention.

U.S. unhappy over Iran envoy in Berne

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The Swiss disregarded several requests from the United States to reject the new Iranian ambassador in Switzerland because of his role in the 1979 takeover of the American embassy in Tehran, U.S. officials say.

State Department spokeswoman Phyllis Oakley said Friday that Switzerland accepted the accreditation of Sayid Mohammad Hussein Malaek after four other governments had turned him down.

"Our embassy to Switzerland, on instructions from the Department of State, expressed concern over the presence and proposed accreditation of Malaek on several occasions to the government of Switzerland prior to his accreditation as ambassador," Oakley said.

"However, the government of Switzerland agreed to accept him as the Iranian ambassador," she said. The United States rejected Malaek in 1984 when Iran sought to send him to serve at the U.N. mission in New York, said another State Department official. The unidentified official, quoted by the AP, said Canada also turned Malaek away in 1985.

In 1986, the British Foreign Office said it rejected his nomination as chief of the Iranian mission in London because of his role in the U.S. hostage-taking. Japan withheld approval of Malaek's diplomatic accreditation for so long that Iran withdrew his candidacy, said the State Department official.

Last year, Malaek was sent to Geneva where he met Nov. 13 with a French Foreign Ministry official, said the Mujahedeen-e-Khalq of Iran.

Lebanon link
The group's Washington office said it had information that the meeting concerned the fate of a French television reporter who was believed held by Iranian-backed extremists in Lebanon.

The reporter, Jean-Louis Nor-

mandin, was released Nov. 27.

The State Department official said the United States presented its views about Malaek "very forcefully" before his accreditation was accepted March 21.

U.N. works on resolution on Wazir killing

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — A resolution was submitted to the Security Council Friday that would condemn "the aggression perpetrated" against Tunisia when Palestinian leader Khalil Al Wazir (Abu Jihad) was assassinated.

The operative part of the draft makes no mention of Israel, widely believed to have sent a commando team to kill Abu Jihad, deputy military commander of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), at his home last Saturday in a suburb of Tunis.

But the resolution's preamble refers to the council's condemnation of Israel for aggression against Tunisia in October 1985, when its aircraft bombed PLO headquarters in Tunis.

Use of the word "aggression" in the text also implies a government was responsible.

Israel has neither acknowledged nor denied responsibility for Abu Jihad's assassination, which is mentioned only in the resolution's preamble.

The council was not expected to vote before Monday on the draft, sponsored by its six non-aligned members — Algeria, Argentina, Nepal, Senegal, Yugoslavia and Zambia.

All speakers in the debate, opened Thursday by Tunisian Foreign Minister Mahmoud Mestiri, have strongly condemned the assassination of Abu Jihad.

Most diplomats who did not directly blame Israel left little doubt they believed it was responsible. But several said they did not know for certain who carried out the assassination.

The United States has not yet spoken in the debate. Israel has boycotted the proceedings, saying the Tunisian complaint contains "various unsubstantiated and speculative accusations."

The draft would "condemn vigorously the aggression perpetrated" April 16 against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Tunisia.

It would urge U.N. members to take measures to prevent such acts against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all states, and would express the council's determination to "take the appropriate steps to ensure the implementation" of the resolution.

Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar would be asked to report urgently to the council "any new elements available to him and relating to this aggression."

The Soviet Union Friday joined the dozens of other nations in accusing Israel of state terrorism.

"It is but another example of Israel's cynical contempt for world public opinion," Soviet Ambassador Alexander Belonogov told the Security Council.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

Palestinian killed in Qabatiya

(Continued from page 1)

Friday were called in his memory.

Qabatiya was the scene of violence nearly two months ago when villagers lynched a resident they said was a collaborator with the Israeli occupation authorities. The army arrested scores of residents after the killing and placed a 40-day curfew on the village.

Food shortages

Palestinians in the West Bank said Saturday they were starting to suffer from food shortages in areas under curfew for the past four to seven days.

Israel imposed the restrictions to head off violent protests against both the Zionist state's 40th anniversary of creation Thursday and the Abu Jihad assassination.

Residents of the areas under curfew, contacted by telephone, said food supplies were running low and families were having difficulty passing days and nights confined to their homes.

"We are down to the last two potatoes," said Abdul Rahman Ghanem, a resident of Nablus, the West Bank's largest city with over 100,000 residents. The city has been under curfew for four days.

"We still have flour, sugar,

lentils and canned food, but there is nothing fresh, no vegetables or meat," said Ghanem.

He said the army allowed residents out of their homes for one or two hours each day to buy supplies, but it was not enough time for the shops to replenish their stocks.

Residents of the territories not under curfew were prevented by travel restrictions from reaching jobs in Israel.

Under the current regulations, Palestinian residents of the West Bank and Gaza may not enter Israel but Israelis may enter the occupied areas.

A Palestinian resident of Ramallah who works in Arab Jerusalem said he travelled to and from work with great difficulty, but managed to pass Israeli roadblocks because his personal documents bore a Jerusalem address.

Residents said the curfews were lifted for one or two hours on most days but always during daylight hours, when Muslims observed the fast in the month of Ramadan, and not at night when they break the daily fast.

Palestinian sources said residents of the West Bank village of Baqa Al Sharqiya had renamed their village "Karyat Abu Jihad".

French hostage effort foiled

(Continued from page 1)

give his name, told reporters at Larnaca airport: "We went to get the hostages, but there were no hostages ready."

The government of Prime Minister Jacques Chirac has been trying to free the three men before the first round of the French presidential elections Sunday.

The three hostages are diplomats Marcel Fontaine and Marcel Carton and journalist Jean-Paul Kauffmann. Fontaine and Carton were kidnapped separately March 22, 1985, and Kauffmann May 22 the same year.

Security sources quoted by Reuters said the mediators held

two rounds of overnight talks with pro-Iranian hostage-takers reportedly in the southern suburbs, a bastion for the Muslim fundamentalists, including Hizbollah (Party of God).

A pro-Syrian source said the envoys met the kidnappers at the house of a senior Syrian officer near the airport, now under the control of Syrian troops.

A security source said although the envoys failed to secure the immediate release of the three hostages, prospects for their freedom were still high.

"There were some last minute hitches which need some time to be resolved," he said.

Hijackers believed still in Algiers

(Continued from page 1)

Algerians have done is commendable," but he did not elaborate. Sources outside Kuwait, who have been reliable in the past, said Wednesday that the hijackers left Algeria immediately after the drama ended.

Kuwaiti officials said Wednesday that the hijackers apparently surrendered after they had been promised safe conduct to another

country. A non-Kuwaiti official was quoted as saying hours after the hijackers disappeared that they were "2,000 miles away by now." He did not elaborate.

U.S. State Department spokeswoman Phyllis Oakley said in Washington Friday: "There are conflicting reports about the whereabouts of the hijackers, but we have no indication they have left Algeria."

Syria shows new 'flexible approach' to ties with PLO

(Continued from page 1)

The second signal was Thursday's meeting between the six-member Fateh delegation and Khaddam and discussions about a similar meeting between the same delegation and President Assad Sunday.

Moreover, journalists here could not but note that Kaddoumi has resumed work, starting Saturday, at the PLO's Political Department in Damascus for the first time since 1983.

In addition, the leadership of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), which was banned since the convening of the Palestine National Council (PNC) in Algiers in April 1987, has also reopened its offices and indications are that the DFLP return to Damascus is not temporary.

According to Palestinian sources, Khaddam also discussed with Fateh relations with four Syrian-backed factions which boycotted the 1987 PNC. No details were available, but leaders of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC), Saïqa and the Popular Struggle Front (PSF) are seen every night accepting condolences over Abu Jihad's death, in the same line with his relatives and other PLO officials at the Arab Club in the Yarmouk camp.

Two leaders of Fateh rebels, Abu Ali Bseiso and Qadri Quek, have also been at the club every night accepting condolences from thousands of mourners for the man whom the Fateh dissidents had once bitterly fought.

Arafat-Assad encounter

But the main question that has been raised here this week is whether these moves will be finally crowned by the arrival of Arafat. Arafat's failure to show up at Abu Jihad's funeral last Wednesday gave rise to diverse speculations. In fact, Palestinian officials themselves were divided whether Arafat should have attended the funeral without guarantees that he would meet President Assad.

Leaders of the DFLP, the PFLP, and even some Fateh officials, express the view that Arafat's arrival would have dramatically changed the course of Syrian-Palestinian relations; others argued that more arrangements should have been made before such a meeting.

A senior Fateh official argued that Arafat did not waste an opportunity and that the door was still open for such a meeting to

take place. "We have to remember that Arafat was expelled from Damascus in 1983," the official argued. He explained that Palestinian-Syrian reconciliation should be reconstructed on the basis of "equal footing and mutual respect."

Other Palestinian officials told the Jordan Times that Arafat feared that a reconciliation with Damascus would hurt his relations with Iraq and Egypt.

Furthermore, they said, there is "a wing" inside Fateh which opposed such a reconciliation.

It is not clear yet to what extent was Arafat affected by such pressures, but according to Palestinian officials the PLO chairman has been in constant touch with his aides here to follow up the progress of the talks.

One obstacle cited by some officials is that Arafat is said to be asking for an official Syrian invitation. But other officials said this obstacle could be overcome by arranging a meeting in another Arab country. Two options which were widely discussed here had been that Libya's Muammar Qadhafi could invite both leaders to Tripoli in the near future or Assad and Arafat could meet during the next Arab summit.

But on Saturday, Palestinian sources told the Jordan Times that if Assad received the Fateh delegation Sunday, a third option would be the arrival of Arafat this week together with Algerian President Chadli Benjedid, who has played a key mediatory role.

Relations on 'new stage'

Meanwhile, optimism prevails and many Palestinian officials believe that Syrian-Palestinian relations have entered a "new stage."

"Both sides are now convinced that there would be no return to the previous rift, and there is just no room for serious differences any more," DFLP leader Nayef Hawatmeh told the Jordan Times confidently.

"I can easily say that the Fateh-Syrian dialogue has succeeded in sorting out many of the complicated issues and has led to agreement on the two main crucial issues — the Palestinian uprising and the united Syrian-Palestinian struggle against Israel and American plans."

Hawatmeh, like other leaders here, believe that a breakthrough between Fateh and Syria would be followed by a series of talks between a PLO delegation and the Damascus government.

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AMMAN JORDAN

Handwritten text in Arabic script.

Norway extends curb on oil production until end of year

OSLO (R) — Norway, Western Europe's second biggest oil producer after Britain, said Friday it would extend until the end of this year a voluntary 7.5 per cent cutback in its planned petroleum output growth.

The move, announced in an oil ministry statement, appeared to be an attempt to give the glutted world oil market a psychological boost ahead of OPEC meetings in Vienna next week to discuss possible production cuts.

Norway is not a member of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), but last year it introduced its voluntary cutback measures to support the 13-nation group's efforts to boost oil prices.

"In the light of the market situation, the government will extend measures to help stabilise the (oil) price at a reasonable level through the second half of 1988," the oil ministry said in a statement.

Norway first introduced the cutback at the beginning of 1987, but oil industry analysts noted that it has always been renewed previously at six month intervals.

Norway would have been expected to announce the move when the current six-month period runs out in June.

"What we have here is a clear sign to the market before the talks next week that Norway is willing to help out — on its own terms," said one analyst, who declined to be identified.

The Norwegian statement welcomed what it called "signs that they (countries outside OPEC) are willing to bring in regulatory measures."

"In this way, a broader basis for a stabilisation of oil prices at a reasonable level can be created," it said.

But it repeated the minority Labour government's view that Norway's production curbs should remain unilateral and that the country should keep an independent oil policy and not be bound by group decisions.

"It continues to be a condition for the Norwegian measures that other oil exporting countries (OPEC) also implement realistic regulation measures to stabilise oil prices at a reasonably high level," the oil ministry statement said.

It did not say what oil price would be "reasonable," but OPEC has been aiming for around \$18 a barrel. The current price is just above \$17 a barrel, although it slumped below \$14 earlier this year because of oversupply.

The statement said that the 7.5 per cent cut in planned production growth would mean that Norway produced 85,000 barrels per day (b/d) less than its capacity in the first half of this year. Norway pumps just over one million b/d.

Texas official offers to cut oil output by 10%

In Houston, Texas Railroad Commissioner Kent Hance, who will attend next week's meeting of OPEC and non-OPEC oil producers in Vienna, said Friday Texas might help boost oil prices by cutting output up to 10 per cent.

The commission regulates Texas oil production, which totals

about two million b/d. Hance said he met OPEC President Rihwanu Lukman in London earlier this month and discussed the possibility of Texas taking part in the effort of OPEC to boost world oil prices by reducing output.

Hance, who was speaking Friday to the Petroleum Equipment Suppliers Association annual meeting, did not say how the OPEC president reacted to his suggestion at their meeting.

In the past, U.S. Department of Energy has firmly ruled out any participation in manipulating the world oil market.

But because the Texas Railroad Commission is responsible for conserving the state's resources, it could order production cutbacks in the name of conservation, Hance said.

The commission sets the amount of oil to be produced each month from all Texas oil wells. From the 1930s to the early 1970s, its decisions on statewide production quotas essentially determined world oil prices.

The Railroad Commission has sought official observer status to attend all OPEC meetings, Hance said.

He says his cutback proposals have broad grassroots support. One Texas oilman, he said, told him he would "rather have 90 per cent of \$20 than 100 per cent of \$13," referring to the price of a barrel of oil.

Hance, a former U.S. congressman, also proposed that the Railroad Commission monitor OPEC production because the commission has "the best monitoring system in the world."

"We can certainly help set up a programme to see who is living up to the OPEC quota system and who is not," he said.

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

Activity on the Amman Financial Market for April 23, 1988.

	Number	Volume	Contracts
Regular market:	185636	JD 253578	278
Top three companies:			
Jordan Investment and Finance	47343	JD 76242	12
Intermediate Petrochemical Industries	33091	JD 40824	77
Universal Chemical Industries	18325	JD 27633	63
Parallel market:	3557	JD 1983	—
Developments bonds:	—	—	—
Treasury bills & bonds:	—	—	—
Other debentures	—	—	—

Study examines setup of Jordanian businesses

AMMAN (Petra) — The department of Statistics has issued its second report on a study it conducted on Jordan's wholesale and retail businesses during 1986.

The study said that the number of businesses dealing with wholesale and retail amounted to 29,409, employing some 66,797 people, earning JD 59.1 million a year.

These businesses paid a total tax of JD 8.3 million, had a networth of JD 243.6 million, and incurred JD 73.2 million in current expenses.

The survey was conducted on 425 businesses or 11.4 per cent of the total number of commercial businesses in the country, the report said.

The report indicated that the outcome of the survey was not different from one conducted in the previous year, except for the indirect taxes on these businesses which increased by nearly 100 per cent.

The report said that the survey was designed to provide data and information about Jordan's domestic trade.

Circular requests firms to distribute dividends

AMMAN — The Ministry of Industry, Trade and Supply has requested all shareholding companies to distribute dividends to shareholders and not to carry under any circumstances any of their net profits as retained earnings for the next year.

A circular issued to these companies by Industry, Trade and Supply Minister Hamdi Tabbara said company profits calculated after the deduction of expenses, reserves and other allocations, are the rightful income of the shareholders, in accordance with the Jordanian companies' law.

The ministry, the circular said, had noticed that certain companies refrain from distributing profits and tend to cycle them for the following year despite the considerable amount of profit made by each.

In the circular, the minister said that such practices would discourage investors from staking more capital in shareholding companies and would negatively affect the investment climate in the country.

Jordan, Egypt open talks

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan and Egypt opened talks here Saturday to review steps taken in cementing bilateral economic cooperation and achieving goals drawn up by the leaderships in both countries.

The talks, expected to last a few days, were conducted by the under-secretaries of the ministries of industry and trade in both countries.

The Egyptian delegation, which arrived in Amman for the talks Friday, is discussing with a Jordanian team details of an equitable and balanced trade agreement due to be signed by the two countries during 1988.

They are also discussing ways of overcoming obstacles impeding the implementation of earlier trade deals, according to an official from the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Supply.

He said that the two sides have set up a drafting committee which would prepare for the signing of the agreement and to draw up a list of goods that would be exchanged by the two countries.

New centre to receive income tax statements

AMMAN (Petra) — The Income Tax Department has opened a new centre for receiving completed income forms of self-assessment covering the past year to facilitate calculating tax on this income by businesses or individuals.

The new centre, which is at the Professional Association Complex in Shmeisani, will operate alongside those centres at Qweismeh, Marka and Sweileh in addition to the Income Tax Department, a department statement said.

It added that the new centre would alleviate the volume of work on the main department which is daily inundated by people and to save time and effort for the taxpayers.

The end of April is the time fixed for various businesses and individuals to submit statements about their income to benefit from various exemptions.

Customs boost collections

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordanian Customs Department collected JD 2,021,157 more in fees from the public and various businesses during January and February of 1988 than the same period of last year.

In the first month of 1988 the department collected a total of JD 13,573,865 against JD 11,841,763 in the first month of 1987, and collected JD 12,016,777 in February 1988 against JD 11,717,812 in February 1987.

These figures show that collections in February 1988 and 1987 were less than the previous months in the two years.

Weekly Amman Financial Market trading

AMMAN (J.T.) — The following table summarises trading activities at the Amman Financial Market during the week starting Saturday, April 16, '88 and ending Wednesday, April 20, '88. (Figures in Jordanian dinars).

Name of company	Number of shares	Volume of trade	Opening price	Closing price	Par value
Banking and financial institutions					
Industrial Development Bank	—	—	—	—	1,000
Petra Bank	—	—	—	—	1,000
Jordan Islamic Bank	1044	1712	1.650	1.640	1,000
Jordan Kuwait Bank	2200	3183	1.530	1.450	1,000
Jordan Gulf Bank	751	856	1.160	1.140	1,000
Housing Bank	1100	1845	1.670	1.680	1,000
Arab Jordan Investment Bank	200	420	2.100	2.100	1,000
Cairo Amman Bank	—	—	—	—	5,000
Bank of Jordan	93	1388	15.200	14.800	5,000
Arab Bank	850	96900	114.000	114.000	10,000
Jordan National Bank	3575	8830	2.460	2.470	1,000
Jordan Finance House for Development	—	—	—	—	1,000
Jordan Investment and Finance Corporation	35681	57120	1.880	1.880	1,000
Finance and Credit Corporation	300	165	0.550	0.550	1,000
National Financial Investments	6198	11236	1.820	1.800	1,000
National Portfolio Securities	3883	2786	0.730	0.710	1,000
Arab Finance Corporation (Jordan)	350	443	1.260	1.270	1,000
Jordan Securities Corporation	234	184	0.790	0.770	1,000
Real Estate Financing Corporation	—	—	—	—	2,000
Al Mashrek Exchange	—	—	—	—	10,000
Insurance and reinsurance					
Jordan French Insurance	—	—	—	—	1,000
REPCO Life Insurance	—	—	—	—	1,000
Jordan Insurance	—	—	—	—	1,000
Arab Life and Accident Insurance	7500	7425	0.990	1.010	1,000
Yamouk Insurance and Reinsurance	1141	1209	1.060	1.060	1,000
Holy Land Insurance	—	—	—	—	1,000
Philadelphia Insurance	—	—	—	—	1,000
Arab Union International Insurance	—	—	—	—	1,000
Jerusalem Insurance	1359	1712	1.260	1.260	1,000
Jordan-Gulf Insurance	—	—	—	—	1,000
Universal Insurance	—	—	—	—	1,000
General Insurance	—	—	—	—	10,000
Jordan Eagle Insurance	—	—	—	—	10,000
Middle East Insurance	—	—	—	—	1,000
Al-Izhar Insurance	—	—	—	—	1,000
National Aliya Insurance	—	—	—	—	1,000
Arab Belgian Insurance and Reinsurance	—	—	—	—	1,000
Services and industries					
General Investments	1200	1533	1.300	1.230	1,000
Inna for Investment and Financial Facilities	4883	2746	0.550	0.550	1,000
Darco for Housing and Investment	13840	5813	0.430	0.420	1,000
Real Estate Investment (Aqarco)	5000	1950	0.400	0.390	1,000
Jordan Gulf Real Estate Investment	200	63	0.310	0.320	1,000
Jordan Leasing Corporation	—	—	—	—	1,000
Petra Enterprises and Leasing Equipments	6357	954	0.650	0.650	1,000
Equipment Leasing & Maintenance Ta'jeero	—	—	—	—	1,000
International Contracting & Investment	—	—	—	—	1,000
Jordan Electric Power	1736	2500	1.440	1.440	1,000
Irbid District Electricity	—	—	—	—	1,000
Arab International Hotels	—	—	—	—	1,000
Hotels and Tourism	—	—	—	—	1,000
Garage Owners Federation Office	—	—	—	—	1,000
Jordan National Shipping Lines	—	—	—	—	1,000
Jordan Press Foundation	—	—	—	—	1,000
Jordan Press and Publishing	—	—	—	—	1,000
Dar Al Shaab Press, Printing and Publishing	10100	3743	0.370	0.370	1,000
Jordan Dairy	68539	69150	1.000	1.000	1,000
Arab Pharmaceutical Manufacturing	8364	16188	1.950	1.930	1,000
Intermediate Petrochemical Industries	21035	27434	1.350	1.290	1,000
Jordan Phosphate Mines	1640	3610	2.200	2.210	1,000
Industrial, Commercial and Agricultural (Intaj)	3288	4400	1.330	1.340	1,000
Arab Chemical Detergent Industries	546	2135	3.950	3.910	1,000
Jordan Kuwait for Agricultural Products	—	—	—	—	1,000
Aladdin Industries	31860	42599	1.350	1.340	1,000
Arab Aluminium Manufacturing	28932	50323	1.760	1.710	1,000
Jordan Worsteds Mills	78	335	4.300	4.300	1,000
Jordan Ceramics	904	915	1.010	1.000	1,000
Chemical Industries	7500	11704	1.630	1.550	1,000
Jordan Industries and Match (JIMCO)	10297	6764	0.670	0.630	1,000
Dar Al Dawa' for Development and Investment	3535	5021	1.420	1.420	1,000
National Steel Industries	47500	131853	2.790	2.720	1,000
Universal Chemical Industries	3319	5399	1.660	1.570	5,000
General Mining	—	—	—	—	1,000
Jordan Petroleum Refinery	4107	28794	7.010	7.020	1,000
Jordan Lime & Brick	29850	6114	0.210	0.210	1,000
National Industries	800	400	0.580	0.500	1,000
Arab Paper Converting and Trading	300	96	0.330	0.330	1,000
Jordan Wooden Industries (JWICO)	2185	2651	1.250	1.180	1,000
Livestock and Poultry	11874	9101	0.750	0.760	1,000
Jordan Pipes Manufacturing	1552	1769	1.140	1.140	1,000
Rafia Industrial for Plastic Bags	—	—	—	—	1,000
Jordan Paper and Cardboard	4200	12823	3.050	3.020	1,000
Jordan Rockwool Industries	17100	9274	0.570	0.540	1,000
Trans-Jordan Minerals Research	—	—	—	—	1,000
Jordan Himeh Mineral	—	—	—	—	1,000
Orient Dry Batteries Factory	—	—	—	—	1,000
Woolen Industries	2000	1620	0.850	0.810	1,000
Jordan Tanning	—	—	—	—	5,000
Jordan Printing and Packaging	—	—	—	—	1,000
Jordan Tobacco and Cigarette	—	—	—	—	1,000
Mas Industries	—	—	—	—	1,000
Arab Center for Pharmaceuticals & Chemicals	—	—	—	—	1,000
National Cable & Wire Manufacturing	9560	9335	0.990	0.970	1,000
Jordan Spinning & Weaving	18566	15324	0.880	0.810	1,000
Jordan Sulpho Chemicals	4650	11322	2.720	2.660	1,000
Jordan Cement Factories	37110	38654	1.040	1.040	1,000
Jordan Glass Industries	1129	1046	0.970	0.910	1,000
Grand total	491,895	743,229			

Insurance and reinsurance					
Jordan French Insurance	—	—	—	—	1,000
REPCO Life Insurance	—	—	—	—	1,000
Jordan Insurance	—	—	—	—	1,000
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Jordan Glass Industries	1129	1046	0.970	0.910	1,000
Grand total	401 805	747 220			

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Egypt defeats Tanzania

CAIRO (R) — Striker Ayman Shawki scored twice Friday to help Egypt's National to a 4-0 win over Tanzanian soccer champions Young Africans in the first round, second leg of the Africa's Champions' Cup and a place in the next round. National, looking to retain Africa's top-prestige club trophy and lift the cup for the third time, had held Young Africans to a 0-0 draw in the first leg in Tanzania. Defender Ala Abdel-Sadek put National ahead in the 28th minute and Shawki rewarded a spell of intense pressure by scoring from close range three minutes before half-time after Young Africans failed to clear. Defender Rabie Yassen beat the off-side trap to slide the ball home from just outside the penalty area after a long second-half free kick from Mohammed Abdel-Galil. Shawki completed his double three minutes from the end.

Turkey, Greece to play after 36 years

ISTANBUL (R) — Turkey and Greece have fixed Sept. 21 for their first national soccer match in 36 years, the semi-official Anatolian news agency said Saturday. The match will be held in Istanbul and a return match will be held in Athens on March 29, 1989. The two countries' B-teams will play on the day before both matches, the agency said. Agreement to start playing again after the last match on May 16, 1952 was reached after ice-breaking talks earlier this year between the two countries' prime ministers. Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal and Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu agreed in January to try to ease tensions between the two NATO countries which last year nearly went to war over disputed oil drilling rights in the Aegean. Of the five matches played between 1948 and 1952, Turkey won three and Greece two, Anatolian said.

Swiss to bid for 1998 World Cup

GENEVA (R) — Switzerland will bid to host the 1998 World Cup soccer tournament, Swiss Television reported Friday. The report said the decision was made unanimously by the central committee of the Swiss Football Association in Bern Friday evening. The choice of the 1998 host will be made by FIFA, the International Football Federation, in 1992. Switzerland last staged the World Cup in 1954.

Samaranch: Olympics door open for Cuba

BARCELONA (R) — The door is still open for Cuba to take part in the Seoul Olympics this year although the deadline to overturn its boycott had expired, International Olympic Committee (IOC) president Juan Antonio Samaranch has said. "We keep the door open... because above regulations is the wish that these games be as universal as possible," he told a news conference in Barcelona Thursday night. Samaranch said an IOC member was currently visiting Cuba but he had received no news that President Fidel Castro had changed his mind. He said six countries had decided to boycott the games.

Damiani retains heavyweight title

MILAN (R) — Italy's Francesco Damiani retained his European heavyweight boxing title in devastating style Friday when he stopped John Emmen of the Netherlands early in the third round of a scheduled 12-round bout. Damiani, who weighed in for the fight more than 10 kilograms heavier than his opponent, won the first rounds calmly before moving in for the kill at the start of the third. From the bell he abandoned his earlier caution, honing in relentlessly on his opponent with a series of harsh body punches that the surprised Dutchman was unable to stand off. Damiani unleashed seven unanswered blows to Emmen's head, sending him reeling onto the ropes where British referee Bill Coyle stopped the fight. The victory, Damiani's first title defense since winning the crown from Sweden's Anders Eklund in Aosta last October, maintains the Italian's unbeaten 21-fight record.

Asmussen steers Soviet Star to victory

SANDOWN, England (AP) — American jockey Cash Asmussen guided French trained Soviet Star to a 2½ length victory in the £40,000 (\$72,000) Trusthouse Forte mile at Sandown Friday. Asmussen brought the favoured four-year-old colt through to take up the running with 300 yards (metres) to go and storm away from long time leader Shady Heights, with second favourite Ascot Knight third. Trained by Andre Fabre, Soviet Star posted his first victory of the English season, although it was Asmussen's third. The winner of the six-horse race over one mile (1.6 km) was returned at 5-4 with Shady Heights, ridden by Willie Carson, rated a 9-1 shot and Ascot Knight, piloted by Walter Swinburn, 6-4.

Benn wins middleweight title

LONDON (AP) — Britain's Nigel Benn won the vacant Commonwealth middleweight boxing title Wednesday, stopping Ghana's Umaru Sanda in the second round of a scheduled 12-round contest at London's Alexandra Palace.

Benn, a former British army soldier nicknamed "The Dark Destroyer," notched up the 17th victory of his unbeaten career as he overpowered the more experienced African with another display of awesome power.

Sanda, who had never been stopped or floored in 29 previous fights, was expected to give Benn his toughest fight to date. Instead, he was on the deck before the end of the first round.

A crunching right hook from 24-year-old Benn hit the African flush on the jaw and although he easily beat the count, Sanda was effectively saved by the bell.

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY, APRIL 24, 1988

YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

From the Carroll Flight Institute

GENERAL TENDENCIES: It is important that you put some time aside today for private matters, as you have not given enough thought to your personal situation lately. It would be wise to pay more attention to your health than usual.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19): You will be highly inspired with many bright ideas today, so don't hesitate to follow your intuition. Avoid an argument with your mate tonight.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20): This would be a good evening to invite some interesting friends into your home, but first make sure conditions there are suitable.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21): Your ability to communicate your ideas to others is especially keen right now, so contact as many business connections as possible.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21): Your memory is not up to par, so write down any ideas that occur to you which may be helpful in business during the week.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21): Your judgment will be very good all day today, so focus your attention on getting all of your personal and business affairs in order.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22): Try to put a bit more romance in your relationship with your mate, and the situation at home will improve greatly as a result.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): You will have an opportunity to turn some acquaintances into fast friends, so be sure to do this. Be very careful while driving.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): This is a fine day for going out and making some visits. Look for persons in positions of power who can help your career situation.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): If you come to a confusing fork in the road, you would be wise to follow your hunches today. This should be a great day and evening.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20): Think over any promises you have made, and be sure you are able to keep them. Try to work more harmoniously with your mate.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 18): Stick to conventional, proven methods today, or you won't get anything at all accomplished. Be wary when signing any contracts.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to Mar. 20): If you have some extra time today, this would be a good time to handle any little chores around the house you have been putting off.

THE Daily Crossword by Frank Garry

ACROSS
1 Bygone
5 Tex. shrub
10 Nutcase
14 — brave
15 Gem weight
16 HRE name
17 Genuine
18 Tellers
20 Answered
22 Digit
23 Switch words
24 Commute and
25 Billiard shot
27 Ballots
28 Excoriate
32 Appeal
33 Of the dawn
34 Afr. fox
38 Reelin
39 Discolor
42 54
43 SPOE word
45 Appearance
46 Astound
48 Broncobusters
50 Adder
51 Mail of song
53 Netting
54 Guzzler
55 Corroded
57 Footwear
60 Get out of
61 bed
63 Fencing sword
64 Margarine
65 Theatrical production
66 Initiator
67 Semester
68 Breaks
69 suddenly
70 Northern constellation
DOWN
1 Young salmon
2 To shelter
3 Type of comedy
4 Reckons up
5 Allments
6 Put down
7 Aesthetic pursuit
8 Sneeze
9 Footstools
10 US poet
11 Moral nature
12 Alan Ladd
13 Playthings
19 Pete
21 Small map of
26 Ocean
27 Gen
28 Kind of exam
29 Eagle's nest
30 Blurred
31 Showers
35 Punch-drunk
36 Magnitude
37 Always
40 Current measuring devices
41 Shelter
42 Vessel abbr.
43 Card game
44 error
49 Oriental nurse
51 Transparent cloth
52 Fish-eating mammal
53 Constructs
54 Used a firearm
56 First garden
57 Porry
58 Sly gaze
59 Antitoxins
60 Fled or
61 Cruise
62 A Gaber

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

DOWN
10 US poet
11 Moral nature
12 Alan Ladd
13 Playthings
19 Pete
21 Small map of
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Pele raises funds to fight AIDS

TOKYO (AP) — "The Pele All Stars" soccer team Friday kicked off a four-game series to raise funds to fight Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS), defeating a Japanese team 2-0 and raising 8 million yen (\$64,000).

But Pele, the Brazilian soccer legend, did not play Friday. Officials had no comment, but sources said he apparently was suffering from a minor leg injury.

The visitors, playing before 48,000 spectators at the Tokyo Dome, scored both goals in the second half to beat the Japan Senior All Stars.

Bruce Wilson of Canada scored the first goal at 10:00 with a free kick after the both teams became more active and speedy in the second half. Johnny Rep of the Netherlands added the other goal at the 30:50 mark.

In the first half, Pele's team controlled the ball most of the time, attacking the Japanese goal 13 times. But the shots were either missed or caught. "It was a beautiful and fantastic game," Pele said afterwards.

Noah to battle Lendl in Monte Carlo Open tennis semifinals

MONTE CARLO (R) — Yannick Noah plucked a spectacular victory from virtual certain defeat by Henri Leconte Friday to earn a semifinal clash with world number one Ivan Lendl in the Monte Carlo Open tennis tournament.

Leconte, who felt he had been denied victory by the umpire on the first of three match points, could not withstand Noah's resurgence as his French Davis Cup colleague swept to a 2-6, 7-6, 6-3 quarter-final win.

Top seed Lendl, returning after two months out with a foot injury, had earlier taken a laborious 7-6, 6-2 victory over Swedish 10th seed Joakim Nystrom, the Czechoslovak's successor as Monte Carlo champion in 1986.

Unseeded Thierry Tulasne got France a second semifinal spot with an 8-6, 6-1 upset of fifth seed Andres Gomez of Ecuador.

Tulasne, next faces seventh seed Martin Jaite of Argentina, who scored an emphatic 6-2, 6-0 victory to bring the surprise third round conqueror of defending champion Mats Wilander firmly back to the earth.

But the clash between the mercurial French pair held the limelight with Leconte, seeded 11th, controlling the show before

the fatal tie-break in the second set. Leconte, who had won 13 straight matches on clay including the Nice Open final last Sunday, served sharply and hit backhands which had Noah in disarray in the first set.

There were no service breaks in the second set but in the tie-break Leconte looked certain to win when he led 4-0 and 6-3 with three match-points to follow.

Noah's next service looked long but after Leconte hit it back in court, the line judge couldn't rule and the umpire decided it was out and ordered the second service.

Noah then saved that match point and two more, the third with a brilliant backhand volleyed drive, and the match changed course irreversibly as he swept through the tie-break 8-6.

Noah led 3-1 in the deciding set and clinched his semifinal place when Leconte hit a forehand volley into the net.

"The first serve I thought was out and I turned away. Henri returned it but I didn't play the point. I guess if Henri says the ball was good, I guess it was good," Noah said.

"Psychologically that was the turn of the match. He started to lose a lot of points. I concede I've been very lucky. For two sets he was much better. He was the only player on the court."

"But after that serve it was still 6-3 and I still had three match-points to go," said Noah, specialist in great escapes in Monte Carlo after he had been two points from defeat against doubles partner Guy Forget in the second round and three against Spanish qualifier Jordi Arrese in the third.

"The ball was on the line," Leconte said of the disputed point. "The linesman confirmed the ball was on the line. The match was over (but) the chairman changed the decision."

"I won one match and then played another. On paper I lost but in my mind I won."

Noah said: "I think I'm very lucky to survive this one. It's been a hell of a match, not just a one-point match. It was very close. Too bad it was match-point."

Zola Budd's fate likely to be postponed

By Andrew Warshaw
Associated Press

LONDON — Zola Budd's fate as an international runner looks set to remain unresolved this weekend when British track chiefs meet to decide whether to sacrifice the South African-born athlete for the sake of the rest of her team-mates.

Budd, whose career has been plagued by politics and controversy ever since she emigrated to Britain in 1984 to clear a path for her appearance at the Los Angeles Olympics, was expected to find out Sunday whether she will be banned for persistent links to her homeland.

But officials say they almost certainly will need more time to agree on what they have described as "one of the most serious questions we have ever had to face."

World athletics rulers have warned that unless Budd is dropped from the roster of her adopted country, the entire British track and field squad could be booted out of international competition, including the next Olympics in Seoul.

The International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) ruled at a meeting of its supreme council last week that Budd had broken "the spirit of the rules" by being present at a track meet in Brakpan, South Africa, last June.

It voted unanimously for an international ban of a minimum of 12 months and warned that unless its request was upheld, it would have to "consider exercising its suspensive powers" against

national athletics," Thatcher said.

Budd, criticised by opponents for spending too much time in her homeland, stakes her case on the fact she was only a spectator at the Brakpan meet and had done nothing wrong. British officials question the IAAF's apparent new interpretation of the phrase "taking part" in its eligibility rules.

"Board members I have spoken to in the last week were very, very angry," Ward said. "They believe the issue is potentially much more serious than Zola Budd alone. How can an international body re-interpret its rules and apply them retrospectively?"

"There are certain matters we need to discuss further. I would think there is only a 1½ chance out of 10 that a firm decision will be reached Sunday. Further investigations are necessary," Ward told the Associated Press.

Last week's IAAF ruling prompted heated and acrimonious debate on the Budd affair in the British parliament, in newspaper editorials and from athletes and officials on both sides.

Even Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher intervened, coming out unequivocally in support of Budd being allowed to pursue her career.

"A number of us find it rather repugnant that so much effort is now concerned with stopping a young woman competing in inter-

national athletics," Thatcher said.

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GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
© 1987 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART

Neither vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ 9
♥ Void
♦ A Q 8
♣ A Q 10 9 6 4 3 2

EAST
♠ 6 5 4
♥ 3 9 7 6 4 3 2
♦ 10 9 7 5 2
♣ J

SOUTH
♠ A Q 10 8 3 2
♥ Q 10 8
♦ K 6 4 3
♣ Void

The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass
3 ♠ Pass 4 ♠ Pass
4 ♠ Pass 6 ♠ Pass
Pass Pass

Opening lead: King of ♣

Bridge is truly a game for all ages. While the American Contract Bridge League is busily promoting an educational program for young people, the combined age of oldest pair in the premier event of the Spring North American Championships, the Vanderbilt Team contest, totalled almost 160! They engineered a huge swing for their team on this board.

We have heard players say that never in their lives have they put down a seven-card suit in dummy. Tom Mahaffey had no scruples about laying down an eight-card suit; he felt he had already shown good clubs and that his spade hold-

THE BETTER HALF. By Harris

© 1988 Comics Syndicate Inc.

HARRIS

"My dreams have been scrambled! If I want to see them I have to rent a box from the cable TV company!"

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Hann Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

NOUGY
SIEGE
LOYDOG
GLOONB

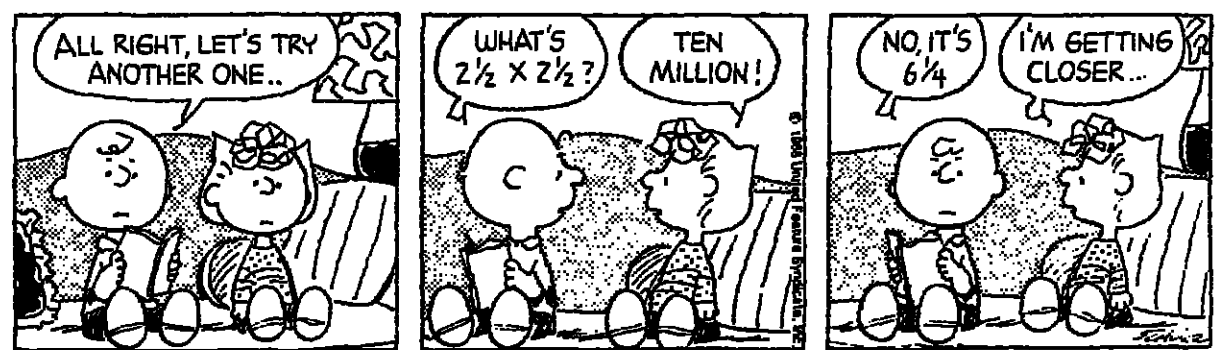
WHAT DO YOU CALL A WET PUP?

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: A

Yesterday's Jumbles: PLUME MAUVE STURDY COUSIN
Answer: When she said yes to the composer it was this—MUSIC TO HIS EARS

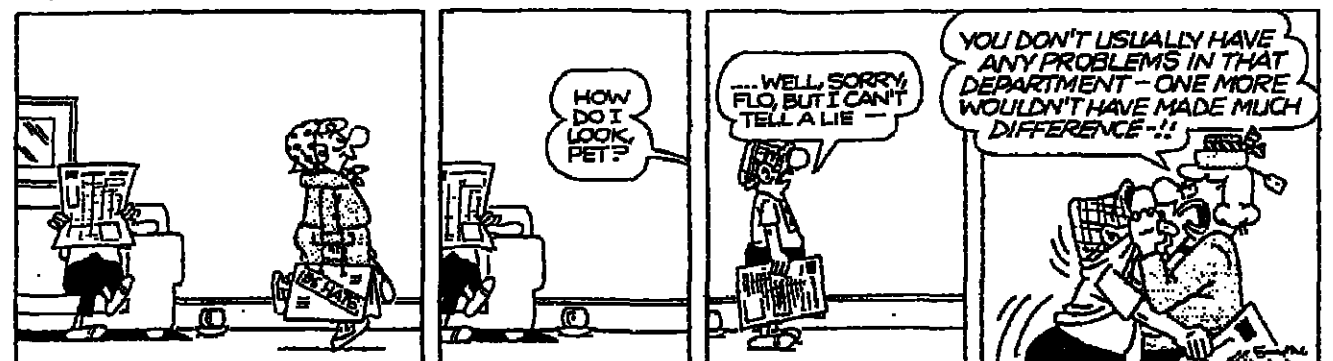
Peanuts



Mutt'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



سنة ١٤٠٩ هـ

Kanak separatists make hostage release demands

SYDNEY (Agencies) — Kanak rebels holding 27 policeman hostage in New Caledonia demanded Saturday that regional elections scheduled for Sunday be cancelled, Australian Broadcasting Corp. (ABC) said.

The Kanak separatist movement made the demand following Friday's attack on the outer island of Ouvea, where three police were hacked to death and the hostages seized.

The ABC said Kanak leaders also demanded that security forces be withdrawn from the area and called for a boycott of Sunday's elections as well as talks with a special French envoy on independence. New Caledonia is a French territory.

The conditions were announced by Leopold Jorodie, a senior member of the Kanak Socialist National Liberation Front (FLNKS).

ABC correspondent Tony Melville said Jorodie stopped short of claiming responsibility for Friday's violence, saying the demands came from the Kanaks holding the hostages in caves on the island.

He said French authorities were not being officially informed of the demands but were instead being told through the media.

Jorodie said the hostages were in good health and being well treated and that Friday's killings were the result of French policies in the island territory.

The ABC said he made clear that the FLNKS intends to disrupt Sunday's poll but it gave no details.

Meanwhile Saturday, French security forces scoured New Caledonia in search of the hostages.

Five other policemen were injured, two of them critically, in Friday's surprise attack on an outpost on the island of Ouvea, around 300 kilometres from the New Caledonian capital of Noumea.

On the main island, a police spokesman said teargas was fired in two northern villages Saturday to break up illegal meetings of Kanaks demanding independence from France.

Friday's incident marked the first violent deaths suffered by the security forces since September, 1987. The attack came 48 hours before regional elections here and the first round of the French presidential elections.

A police spokesman said armed reinforcements flown in after the attack resumed their search of Ouvea Saturday morning.

"We think they are being held in caves but we know nothing for sure," a police spokesman said.

The small mountain on Ouvea, a sun-drenched island around 40 km. long and three km. wide, is dotted with caves hidden in deep undergrowth.

"We have had no contact with the aggressors nor with tribal authorities," the spokesman added.

The hostages, who were stripped of their uniforms before being taken away, were seen by local people heading towards an area occupied by the Gossanah tribe.

In Saturday's incident, police fired teargas to break up a meeting of 150 supporters of the FLNKS in Hienghene, whose mayor is FLNKS leader Jean-Marie Tjibaou.

Gas was also used in Ponerihouen where a house was reportedly burnt down. The spokesman said there were no reports of any injuries in the incidents.

Tjibaou told reporters Saturday the massacre on Ouvea was a consequence of 130 years of colonisation.

"The (French) government is responsible for this situation, for all deaths here, they should take responsibility. The only solution is to open discussion on a statute of independence," Tjibaou said.

The capital, Noumea, was quiet Saturday morning with very few policemen visible on the streets.

Overnight, two teargas grenades and one stun grenade were thrown at a pro-independence radio station in Noumea without causing damage or injury.

Senators won't promise INF approval before summit

WASHINGTON (AP) — Senate leaders say they won't be pushed into approving the U.S.-Soviet arms control treaty to meet a White House deadline of ratifying the pact before President Ronald Reagan's trip to Moscow in late May.

The Senate still needs to nail down answers to questions about whether the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty bans weapons not yet developed as well as existing missiles, Senate Majority Leader Robert Byrd said Friday.

Assurances by the White House and a top Soviet official that both superpowers agree the treaty does ban future types of weapons aren't enough, said Byrd and Senator Sam Nunn, chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee.

"We need to make sure, be absolutely clear," said Nunn, speaking of the issue of how the pact affects weapons such as lasers or particle beams.

Byrd told his colleagues: "I did not set the date of the summit, I had nothing to do with it. This Senate is no president's rubber stamp and this senator is no president's man."

Reagan had said Thursday that he hopes the pact is approved in time for him to take a ratification notice to Moscow for his May 29-June 2 meeting with Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev.

Reagan, asked whether failure to ratify the pact would affect the summit, said, "I think it would be very upsetting and it would put a strain on the summit."

When the Senate finally does vote, ratification is likely, said Byrd. Ratification requires 67 votes, and Byrd and Republican leaders have said they believe 90 of the 100 senators will support the pact.

Dukakis hints at Jackson as vice president

PHILADELPHIA (R) — Front-runner Michael Dukakis teasingly hinted Friday he might want black leader Jesse Jackson as his vice presidential candidate if he wins the Democratic presidential nomination.

During a debate without any personal clashes, Jackson replied to a questioner, who wanted to know whether he would accept second place on the ticket, that the nomination race was far from over.

"It's a bit premature to be giving out coronation roses for the governor and Taps for me," Jackson said at the University of Pennsylvania.

But in his rebuttal, the Massachusetts governor turned to Jackson and surprised him by asking: "are you interested?"

Then, after a pause while Jackson looked surprised, Dukakis added, "talk to me later," getting loud applause.

He repeated the question to Jackson later in the debate as well, and said he did not believe a black runningmate would hurt his chances of winning the White House.

Whenever asked during campaign stops about a vice presidential choice, Dukakis says he has not considered runningmate and would wait until he wins the nomination.

The one-on-one debate was the first since the Democratic field narrowed to Dukakis and Jackson and was the first in this state holding a major primary Tuesday.

The exchange about the vice presidency came as a new poll showed Dukakis, with Jackson as a vice presidential candidate, would lose to Vice-President George Bush, who is certain to be the Republican presidential nominee.

A survey by USA Today news-

paper and Cable News Network (CNN) television gave Dukakis, the likely Democratic nominee, a 45-43 per cent lead over Bush. But the poll said Bush would defeat a Dukakis-Jackson ticket by 49-42 per cent.

One of the major questions in the campaign is whether Jackson would demand the vice presidential nomination. Party leaders fear that anti-black bias would hurt Democratic prospects if Jackson were on the ticket.

But Jackson Campaign Manager Gerald Austin says his candidate has earned the spot by capturing the second largest group of nominating delegates.

Most political strategists say Dukakis is likely to win all of the remaining primary contests. Jackson aides say their candidate's best remaining chance to win a pre-election contest is in California, the final and largest primary, on June 7.

Only 1 body recovered from burning tanker off Canada

ST. JOHN'S, Newfoundland (R) — A Greek-owned oil tanker was found broken in half and burning in the North Atlantic Friday and despite a day-long search, rescuers found only the charred body of one of the 29 people believed aboard.

The body was recovered late Friday from the North Atlantic near where the tanker Athenian Venture was found but there were no signs of survivors, the U.S. Coast Guard said.

"He had the ship's log and some personal papers and was definitely from the ship," Chief Warrant Officer John Hollis of the U.S. Coast Guard told Reuters by telephone.

"He was badly burned," Hollis said, adding that the victim was a Polish national.

Lieutenant Commander Kent Fisher of the Coast Guard said 24 crew members and five passengers, believed to be crew family members, were aboard the tanker when it caught fire and broke in two about 372 nautical miles south of Cape Race, Newfoundland.

All were believed to be from Poland, Fisher said.

The Canadian research vessel Hudson discovered the burning bow and stern of the Athenian Venture about two miles apart,

800 miles off Nova Scotia before dawn but there was no clue as to what had caused the mishap.

"It's one hell of a mess," Captain Lorin Strum said in a ship-to-shore interview from the Hudson. "She's a 30,000 to 40,000 tonner broken in two — both ends burning."

"We could see fire through the house windows so she's all burned out in the bridge sector. I think I could quite safely say it would be impossible for anyone to be alive aboard."

Police hunt robbers who fled with crowd support

LOS MOCHIS, Mexico (AP) — Hundreds of police and soldiers hunted Friday for bank robbers who escaped at the end of a 24-hour siege with the help of a huge crowd shouting, "freedom, freedom."

Five people were killed, 15 wounded and 42 held hostage and later freed in the assault that ended Thursday at the branch of the National Bank of Mexico in this Gulf of California agricultural town.

Unconfirmed reports said the seven robbers took about \$13,000 from the bank, but neither police nor bank officials would confirm the amount.

Police Friday combed a working-class neighbourhood where the young men abandoned a pickup truck and station wagon.

Judicial police chief Arturo Moreno said Friday the search so far has yielded no results.

Army soldiers kept watch at the borders of this northwestern state.

On Thursday, a crowd of at least 1,000 shouting, "freedom, freedom," surged toward the bank and an armoured car as police withdrew to allow the gunmen to escape.

The authorities had agreed to provide the gunmen with an armoured car and let them take three Red Cross workers hostage.

Some of the crowd crawled atop the vehicle and stayed with it for several blocks as it sped from the crime scene.

Police sharpshooters on rooftops around the bank were unable to act because of the crowd.

Progress in AIDS research

LONDON (R) — French scientist Daniel Zagury has made significant progress towards developing a vaccine against AIDS, this week's edition of Nature magazine said.

Zagury, of the Pierre and Marie Curie University in Paris, wrote in a report to the scientific journal he had given three injections to volunteers not infected with the AIDS HIV virus.

The third injection produced a dramatic rise in antibodies that fight HIV. "Although this protocol (procedure) is not practical for a large scale vaccine trial, our results show for the first time that an immune state against HIV can be obtained in humans," Zagury wrote in Nature.

"We suggest that this approach be considered as a prototype candidate vaccine against AIDS. However, whether the above-described immune state against HIV confers protection against AIDS has to be established," he said. He said trials would have to be carried out with a large number of people at risk of becoming infected with the virus.

Eating the strays away

CALCUTTA (R) — Calcutta city authorities, trying to contain a canine population explosion, have offered to sell dogs to South Korea where they are a part of the staple diet. Subodh Dey, council member in charge of health, told reporters Friday: "We have written to the South Korean prime minister offering him a supply of stray dogs from Calcutta for eating."

Calcutta, with 10 million people the most populous Indian city, also has more than 100,000 stray dogs which have become a nuisance, according to Dey. He has also offered the stray dogs to Nagaland state, in the north-east, where dog meat is a delicacy. The offer has brought protests from dog lovers, who have threatened to take the corporation to court.

Dog breeder Ashis Das said: "We understand it is a big problem but there are other ways to curb it. Next, Dey will be selling humans to cannibals to stop the population explosion."

Not just another day in court

WHITE PLAINS, New York (R) — A U.S. courtroom was transformed into a rock concert hall Friday as Rolling Stones lead singer Mick Jagger sang some of his hits and played tapes in an effort to prove he did not steal another musician's song. The 43-year-old rock legend took the witness stand and talked and sang his way through "Brown Sugar," "Let's Spend the Night Together" and "Jumpin' Jack Flash."

Singer-songwriter Patrick Alley, 38, of New York, is suing Jagger, claiming he stole his 1979 song "Just Another Night" and recorded it for his 1985 solo album, "She's the Boss." Alley seeks \$ five to seven million he claims the song made in profits. The usually stately courtroom in this New York City suburb looked more like a rock concert stage as drums, a guitar, keyboards and amplifiers were set up next to the jury box. Jagger electrified a packed courtroom of rock fans and the curious by singing excerpts from several Rolling Stones hits, and also played private tapes that he said showed the development of the song "just another night." But Federal Judge Gerard Goettel was not terribly amused, and asked Jagger if he was done at one point. Jagger said he wasn't and continued. "Repetition is common to rock music, is it not?" the judge asked. "It's common to all pop music, even to European music from the Middle Ages," Jagger quipped. Jagger and Alley have both called experts from New York City music schools to testify about the similarities, or lack of them, in the song in question.

IRS revokes PTL's tax-exempt status

ATLANTA, Georgia (R) — The U.S. Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Friday revoked the tax-exempt status of the PTL club founded by evangelists Jim and Tammy Bakker, in another blow to scandalised American television ministries. The revocation by the IRS is a critical step in efforts the agency has made to claim \$55 million in back taxes it says are owed from the years in which the Bakkers ran PTL. PTL (Praise The Lord) club has undergone a steady disintegration since March 1987 when Jim Bakker admitted he had paid hush money to cover up a sexual liaison with a former church secretary, Jessica Hahn.

WORLD NEWS BRIEFS

Panama ministers offer to resign

PANAMA CITY (AP) — Three government ministers, including Foreign Minister Jorge Abadia, have offered their resignations, sources said. Nander Pitty Velazquez, minister of the presidency, and Candelario Santana, recently named the minister of labour and social welfare, were the other two ministers to offer resignations, said Romulo Escobar Betancourt, president of the Democratic Revolutionary Party of the ruling coalition. In a letter to President Manuel Solis Palma, Velazquez said he was "motivated by the desire to leave you free to restructure the cabinet council and your team... in these difficult times of the country." The state-run newspaper Critica said Friday that Solis Palma was expected to name what it called a "war cabinet" to confront the nation's economic crisis. The Roman Catholic church Friday also urged the United States to lift the economic sanctions, imposed on Panama to force out military strongman Manuel Antonio Noriega, claiming they pose "a threat to the life of our people." The church said in an eight-page pastoral letter that the sanctions "have strongly hit all the people, above all the poorest and the most humble."

Japanese caught with bombs charged

NEWARK, New Jersey (R) — A federal grand jury Friday charged a suspected Japanese urban guerrilla who was arrested in New Jersey 10 days ago with three pipe bombs in his car. Yu Kikumura, 35, was charged with three counts each of interstate transportation of explosive devices, possessing unregistered explosive devices and possession of explosives by an illegal alien. U.S. Attorney Samuel Alito announced Friday. Other charges against him included having an illegal passport, a stolen passport and a fraudulent visa, he added. The Japanese Foreign Ministry has said Kikumura, 35, is suspected of belonging to the Red Army urban guerrilla group. FBI agents also have gone to Italy to investigate a suspected link between Kikumura and an April 14 bombing outside a USO club in Naples, Italy. He was travelling in Europe before entering the United States on March 8. If convicted on all counts, Kikumura could face 90 years in prison.

Britain suspends navy visits to Denmark

LONDON (AP) — Britain, which refuses to say whether its warships carry nuclear arms, has suspended royal navy ship visits to Denmark in the first such move involving a fellow member of NATO, the Foreign Office said Friday. British warships have been ordered to stay away until after Denmark's May 10 general election, announced this week by the Conservative-led government following a parliamentary vote to enforce a ban on nuclear-armed vessels. The British decision meant cancelling visits by six ships, including a destroyer, HMS Bristol, and a frigate, HMS Euryalus, officials said. The other British ships involved are three minesweepers and a survey vessel.

Reagan still backs Meese despite criticism

WASHINGTON (R) — President Reagan still has confidence in Attorney General Edwin Meese even after two former top Justice Department aides bluntly told him Meese must go because of his legal problems, U.S. officials said. Justice Department officials said the aides outlined to Reagan how Meese seemed insensitive to ethical standards, had tarnished the agency's reputation, spent too much time defending himself in court and caused staff morale to plunge. White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater said Friday Reagan still supported Meese, and the president replied with a firm "No" to a reporter's shouted question about whether Meese should resign. The officials said the aides presented their case against Meese directly to Reagan and Vice-President George Bush last Wednesday, but Reagan immediately decided against any action to oust his long-time friend and associate.

Judge postpones Union Carbide hearing

BHOPAL, India (AP) — District Judge M.W. Deo postponed Saturday's hearing on the Bhopal gas disaster and set May 6 as the date of outlining a new schedule. Deo adjourned the proceedings after lawyers from both the Union Carbide Corp. and the Indian government said they had not yet received copies of a ruling on Deo's order that Union Carbide pay "interim relief" to gas victims. India is suing Union Carbide for \$3 billion in damages for the December 1984 gas leak from the pesticide plant of a company subsidiary in Bhopal. More than 2,800 people were killed and thousands injured in the accident.

Peru rebels kill third mayor this month

LIMA (R) — Maoist guerrillas killed a ruling party mayor and his driver in Peru's second city Friday and set fire to an agricultural cooperative, police said. They said two Sendero Luminoso (Shining Path) guerrillas gunned down APRA Mayor Isidro Garcia at dawn as he left his house for work in Socabaya, a district of Peru's prosperous second city, Arequipa, 820 kilometres south of the capital. The guerrillas also shot dead the driver of a state car waiting to take Garcia to work, police said. Garcia was the third mayor of the ruling American Popular Revolutionary Alliance (APRA) to be killed by guerrillas this month.

Goetz can keep profits from story

ALBANY, New York (AP) — Subway gunman Bernhard Goetz can keep any money he makes from selling his story, the chairman of the state crime victims board said Friday. Goetz was convicted in June 1987 of one count of third-degree weapons possession in the Dec. 22, 1984, shooting of four teenagers on a New York City subway train. The four-member board decided unanimously that the state "Son of Sam" law does not apply to Goetz, said Chairman Angelo Petromellis. The board made the ruling March 17 in response to a petition filed by Goetz. Goetz has yet to sell the story, the board said. Under the "Son of Sam" law, which the board administrators, any profits made by convicts who sell the stories of their crimes are held in escrow by the board for the person's victims. The law was created in 1979 to prevent "Son of Sam" killer David Berkowitz from profiting from book and movie deals about his yearlong crime rampage, which left six people dead and seven wounded.

Journalists recommend easing restrictions

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. and Soviet officials and journalists concluded a conference on information policy with a recommendation that both governments ease travel restrictions on each other's journalists. The meeting, which ended Friday, resulted from a conversation at the Washington summit last December involving Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, his Politburo colleague Aleksandr Yakovlev, and Charles Z. Wick, head of the U.S. Information Agency. One discussion panel made a recommendation to "urge our respective governments to take reciprocal steps to ease travel restrictions on journalists." Wick told a news conference. Wick and the head of the Soviet delegation, Valentin Falin, chairman of the semi-official Novosti news agency, stressed that the panel's recommendation did not mean either government would change its policies. "In strict compliance with what has been said by the American side, the Soviet side on its return (to Moscow) will report to the competent Soviet agencies all the wishes that have been expressed and all the proposals and considerations that have been expressed during the meetings," said Falin. The number and movements of U.S. and Soviet journalists in the respective countries are tightly controlled by the governments.

Research society brings sex out of China's closet

By Charlene L. Fu
The Associated Press

HARBIN, China — A group of Chinese sociologists and medical personnel is trying to get sex out of the closet and help people to have happy, healthy sex lives.

"We are very conservative," said Shi Ling, director of the Obstetrical and Gynaecological Hospital of Harbin and a member of China's only Sex Science Research Society.

The 177-member society was set up last year to coordinate efforts of medical workers and sociologists at several Harbin hospitals and institutions in addressing sexual problems.

The provincial capital of China's northeasternmost province of Heilongjiang, with its Soviet-style architecture and heavy industry, seems an unlikely place for China to pioneer work in sex research and the study and treatment of sexual disorders.

But this city of 2 million boasts the nation's first centre for treatment of male and female sexual disorders and the unique Sex Science Research Society.

Members of the society say China can no longer ignore the sexual problems that many Chinese live with.

"Sex has long been a forbidden subject. No one was willing to talk about sex or sex problems, but it is a very important problem. It is a problem that affects everyone," said sociologist Gao Caigun, chairman of Heilongjiang's Institute of Marriage and Family Planning.

"No other disorder in the world is like sexual disorder in that it affects both partners," said Li Jiqi, head of the Centre for Treatment and Consultations of Sexual Disorders of Men.

"Sooner or later, we had to establish this clinic. We can't avoid this issue. It's a part of us, but in the past, nobody was willing to talk about it," said Yang Jin, director of the Heilongjiang No. 4 Hospital that houses the male clinic.

He pointed to the 4,000 letters the clinic has received since it was established two years ago and the year-long waiting list for treatment as evidence of the magnitude of the problem.

Since the clinics opened in 1986, similar institutions have been started in other parts of the country. But Harbin still attracts patients from across the nation and is regarded as the leader in the field.

The male sexual disorders clinic has treated more than 3,000 patients, and the Centre for Treatment and Consultations of Sexual Disorders of Women, at the Obstetrical and Gynaecological Hospital, has handled 5,000 cases, of which 3,000 were outpatients.

The men's clinic claims to have cured 70 per cent of its patients.

Puritanical and moralistic

The attitudes of the research society members are refreshingly open in this society that traditionally has been puritanical and moralistic.

The female sexual disorders centre, for example, has begun to encourage women to experience orgasms during intercourse.

The clinics handle some situations new to China.

With the gradual rise in the standard of living, young people are reaching puberty earlier. The age at which girls have their first menstrual period has dropped from 13 to 11. Boys now reach puberty at age 13 rather than 15.

However, China has a strict policy of late marriage. The legal age for marriage is 20 for women and 22 for men — the highest in the world. While late marriage helps keep down China's birth rate, it creates a nation of sexually frustrated young people.

Society members said increasing numbers of young people are engaging in premarital sex.

There is an obvious increase from the past of (young people) having sex before marriage," Shi said, but said no figures were available.

She said her hospital has seen a jump in unmarried pregnant women, ranging in age from 14 to 25. Seventy to 75 per cent of the abortions the hospital performs on women in their second trimester of pregnancy involve unwed mothers, Shi said.

A report earlier this year by the official China News Service said

27 per cent of the women who had abortions in 1985 at the Foshan No. 1 Hospital in Guangdong province were unmarried. That figure rose to 30 per cent the following year. In 1987, that percentage rose by 40 per cent over the 1985 figure, the report said.

Still, the amount of premarital sex in China is far below world levels, Shi said. Surveys of engaged couples have found that more than 90 per cent were virgins.

Members of the research society acknowledged having treated homosexuals and sufferers of venereal diseases. Chinese officials have claimed that homosexuality and venereal disease no longer exist in this country.

Shock treatment

"We do have homosexuals," Li said, adding their surveys show that three of every 1,000 men in China are gay.

No figures were available on lesbians in China. Shi said their numbers are few and the female sexual disorders clinic has not treated any lesbians.

The Chinese regard homosexuality as an abnormality.

The "cure" used by the male sexual disorders clinic is to condition the homosexual not to be excited by men by using either electric shocks or traditional Chinese medicine that induces vomiting.

The society members say they fight a battle on two fronts — against the ignorance and superstitions of traditional thinking and against the sexual freedoms of Western society.

While stressing the importance of a happy, healthy sex life, they hasten to add they are not advocating "free sex" or "sexual liberalisation," which they see as part of a decadent Western capitalist society.

"We don't talk about creativity in sex life," said Ma Ran, deputy director of the No. 4 Hospital and secretary general of the research society. "We advise them how to have a healthy sex life."

Society members insist, however, that their ultimate goal is to help people adjust sexually so that they will be unencumbered in making contributions to China's socialist modernisation.